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THE OLD CROSSES

OF

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

LONDON: PRINTED BY
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NOTES

ON THE

OLD CROSSES

OF

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

82091

BY

CHARLES POOLEY, F.S.A.

MEMBER OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
AND OF THE COTTESWOLD CLUB.

T. f. 3

WITH NUMEROUS ILLUSTRATIONS ON STONE AND WOOD

LONDON:
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.
1868.

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TO

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS

OF

THE COTTESWOLD CLUB,

IN MEMORY OF TWENTY YEARS' ASSOCIATION,

AND IN THE HOPE THAT IT MAY SERVE TO PERPETUATE

MANY PLEASANT RECOLLECTIONS OF RAMBLES WE HAVE MADE TOGETHER,

THIS ATTEMPT TO ILLUSTRATE

A MINOR DEPARTMENT IN THE ARCHÆOLOGY OF THE COUNTY

IS

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

PREFACE.

THIS WORK, as its name implies, is simply a collection of Notes. It lays no claim to originality, its sole object being to preserve a record of those ancient Crosses which the implacable Iconoclasm of the seventeenth century destroyed, and the mutilated remains of which lie scattered through the county. It is unnecessary to enumerate the various purposes for which Crosses were erected, nor need the causes be referred to which led to their demolition. It is sufficient to note that the ruthless barbarity and profanity which marked the execution of the Parliamentary Edicts of 1643, and which well nigh ended in the total destruction of our venerable Cathedrals, have left a blot on the page of our history which can never be erased, and, it is to be hoped, may never be repeated.

Except in the High Crosses, the Preaching Cross at Iron Acton, and the Crosses of Bisley, Aylburton, Lydney, and Clearwell, there is but little in their architecture to call for remark. The plan generally is so simple and the features

so minute that no room is left for display. In two instances, however—namely, those of Didmarton and Westcote—figures have been introduced in the base with good effect.

The question of the restoration of Crosses is one that must be left to the spirit of the times to decide. The ruins of an old Cross, weather-stained, and covered with lichen, and preserving the impress of original work, has a value, at least in the eyes of antiquaries, which the painted pine-apples and dials of modern days—freaks designed to conceal the object of the structure—have not. In an art point of view, judicious restoration would be a gain.

It may seem trivial to sketch and measure every little fragment; but as memorials of the past, from which we are day by day receding, we instinctively attach ourselves to every link, however humble, that connects us with it; and surely a notice of these relics of antiquity, which, after a lapse of five hundred years or more, yet remain to remind us of the not unimportant part they bore in the development of the great ecclesiological epoch of the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries, cannot be deemed unworthy of preservation. Besides, there are no two exactly alike; and this difference gives to each a claim to be respectively considered, if only to illustrate the slight variations in minor details which were made in working such

simple elements as those of which they are composed. How much is lost by the destruction of the sculptured heads of the Crosses may be judged by the gleam of light which those of Amney Holy-Rood, and Ashelworth, throw on the ecclesiastical usages of the times.

Although pains have been taken to ascertain the existence of all remains of Crosses in the county, some may have escaped observation. There are many places where the name is perpetuated, but the Cross has disappeared. *Stat nominis umbra.*

To the clergy, incumbents of parishes throughout the county, and others, my grateful thanks are due for the uniform courtesy with which they have responded to my enquiries, and in several instances forwarded me sketches and notes, whose accuracy I have since been able to verify. Amongst those who claim my especial acknowledgments are: J. D. Thos. Niblett, Esq., F.S.A., for sketch and note of Haresfield Cross; Thos. Graham Jackson, M.A., for drawing of Newland Cross, restored; Rev. J. Pantin, for sketch of Westcote Cross; Rev. Herbert Haines, for sketch of Cross on Robin's Wood Hill; Miss Lawrence, for sketch of Whittington Cross; Rev. R. Cooper, for note on Chipping Sodbury Cross; Miss Biddulph, of Ledbury, for sketch of Bromsberrow Cross; Rev. E. J. Everard, for sketch of Didmarton Cross; John Middleton, Esq., for drawing of Clearwell Cross, restored.

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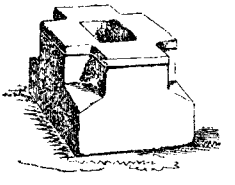
THE

OLD CROSSES

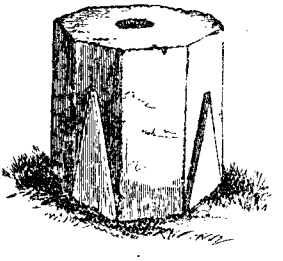
OF

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN.—There are the sockets of three old Crosses in this parish: one in the churchyard, which was found in restoring the church some years ago, built into the wall of the tower, having a hollow chamfer at the angles, and a large mortise, 13½ in. square, to receive a massive shaft—probably twelfth century work; a second by the side of the road at Six-Bells, about half a mile north of the village, octagonal, with an ornamental broach chiselled in relief on its alternate faces, same date; and a third at Chaxhill, about two miles from the village. It is thought there were many others, and that they used to mark the tythings, of which there are no less than thirteen in this large parish. There is a farm in the parish called 'Broken Cross,' but the origin of the name is lost.

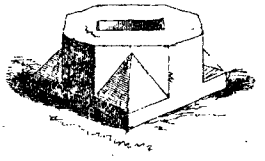


WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN.

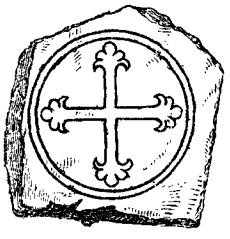


WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN.

BROOKTHORP.—In the garden of the Rev. T. Bayly, the vicar, is the socket of a village Cross, which stood, it is supposed, at the junction of three roads, about a stone's throw from the vicarage. It was found built into an angle of an old barn, pulled down about 1865, base outward, exactly opposite the spot which might have been its original site. Its upper bed is an octagon, reduced to a thin square lower bed by large and remarkably fine broaches: there is a square mortise for the insertion of the shaft. It measures 26 in. square and 15 in. in height, and its outlines are as sharp as if just chiselled. Late thirteenth century.



BROOKTHORP.

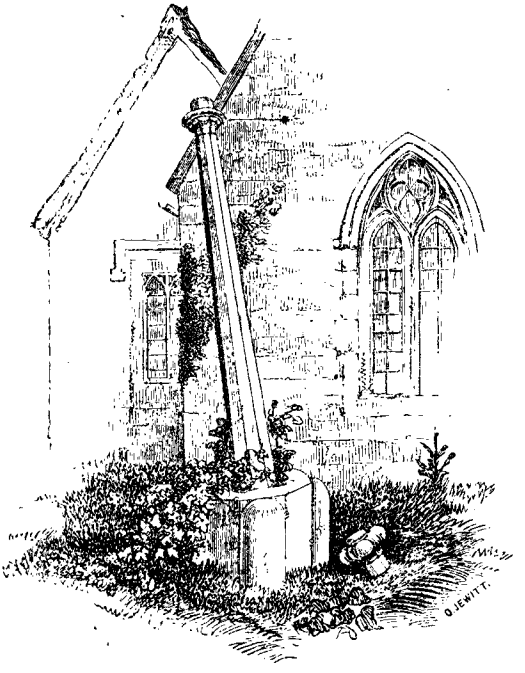


BROOKTHORP.

Mr. Bayly has also in his possession a large stone slab, which was found about twenty-six years ago, forming the foundation of the vestry door, and which has on its face an incised cross *fleurie*, 25 in. from point to point, within a double aureole 27 in. in diameter, also incised. Probably twelfth century.

WHITTINGTON.—A churchyard Cross of curious design. The socket is an octagon, having large broaches at the alternate faces, of peculiar outline, convex at the top, and parallel sides, more like buttresses; the shaft is a tapering octagonal monolith, 9 ft. 10 in. in height, with a light fluted moulding at the top, and a tenon for inserting into the mortise of the head. An octagon-shaped flower head lies near, on the grass. No steps are visible. The

socket and the shaft appear to be of different dates; the former probably early fourteenth, the latter late fifteenth century, or even later.



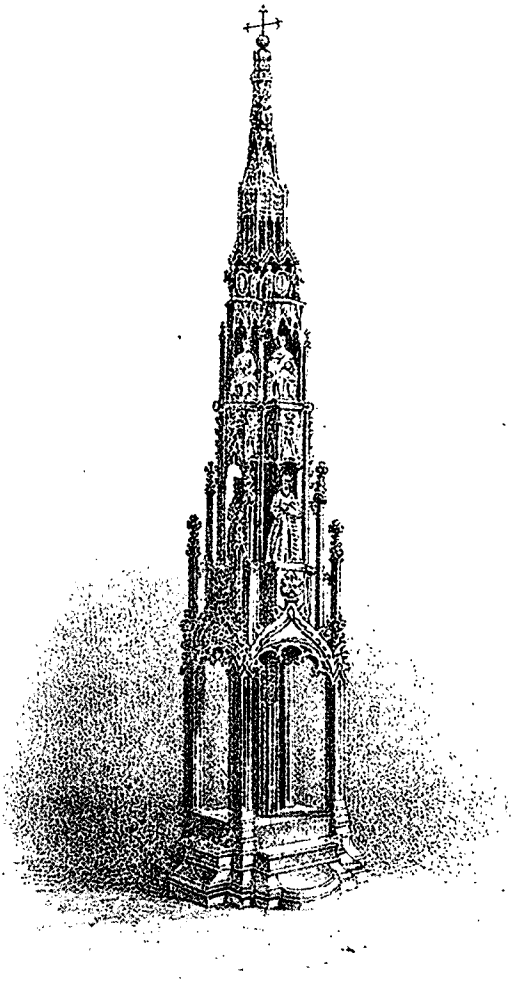
WHITTINGTON.

BRISTOL.—Preserved amongst the archives of the city is a quaint old drawing by ROBERT RICART, a lay brother of the Fraternity of Calendars, afterwards town-clerk in the reign of Edward IV., intended to represent the town towards the conclusion of the Saxon era, in which the highest symbol of the Christian faith is embodied in the general features of the ground plan. Thus the four principal streets which reached from gate to gate formed a S. Andrew's Cross, and the cluster of houses in each division a Maltese Cross, while the Alta Crux occupied the point of intersection (see frontispiece), and conveyed the lesson that not only should

the Cross, emblematic of Him who hung thereon, be the one object of the citizens' hopes, but also the very centre of their worldly occupations. There is no clue to the plan of the old Saxon Cross beyond that represented in the drawing, in which the crocketed spire and arches are so like in general effect to those of the Cross which succeeded it, and which stood on the same site, that Ricart may be fairly suspected of having made his curious sketch from it.

The exact date of the High Cross is stated to be 1373. It was erected to commemorate an important charter which Edward III., towards the close of his reign, granted to the burgesses, whereby the difficulty of administering the municipal government of the town, by reason of part lying in the county of Gloucester and part in that of Somerset, was obviated. Although the fourteenth century is the period assigned for its erection, there is a MS. Calendar extant in which mention is made so distinctly of the High Cross as to lead to the inference that a similar structure occupied the same spot a century before. The passage runs thus :— 'Anno 1247. Now that the bridges went happily forward, the townsmen on this side of Avon and those of Redcliffe were incorporated, and became one town, which before was two, and the two places of Markett brought to one, viz.— that at Redcliffe side being kept at Temple Cross, als S. Allege, or Stallege Cross; and also that from the old Markett, near Lawford's Gate; and both being made one, were kept where now it is, *and a faire Cross there built, viz. the High Cross, which is beautiful, with the statues of several of our Kings.*' Other Calendars also allude to the same thing.

It is difficult to account for this discrepancy of dates,



From a Scarce Print.

M & N Hanhart lith.

BRISTOL HIGH CROSS.
A.D. 1633.

otherwise than by supposing that either the Calendars are not trustworthy records (and the fact that the pen of Chatterton was known to touch some of them, makes their unqualified acceptance as historical documents anything but easy), or else that the rebuilding of the Cross in 1373 consisted in certain additions and embellishments, the rest of the High Cross, with the statues of the Kings, remaining as it was before. Barrett expressly states, that the erection of the Cross of 1373 was only the 'rebuilding the removed Cross on the very spot where the old one stood,' implying clearly the existence of a High Cross before that time, and on the same site.

In the niches which occupied the different stages were placed well-sculptured statues of those Kings who had been benefactors to the city:—

That of King John was placed northward, fronting Broad Street. He gave the city the first and very extensive charter of privileges, especially all the void ground on the banks of the rivers, thereby to amend the town by building.

That of King Henry III. was fixed fronting Wine Street, eastward. He confirmed Henry II.'s charter that established it a mayor-town, and also that of King John, and joined Redcliffe to Bristol, making it one corporate town.

That of King Edward III. was fixed facing Corn Street, westward; and,

That of King Edward IV. was added afterwards to the other three figures, and placed to front High Street, southward.

No alteration or addition was made to the Cross for 260 years, but in 1633, some necessary repairs being required, it was taken down in part, enlarged and raised higher, and the following four statues added :—

That of King Henry VI., which was placed in a new niche, eastward. He granted and confirmed all the charters of his predecessors.

That of Queen Elizabeth, which was placed westward. She also had confirmed the charters.

That of King James I., who had renewed the charters, which was placed southward ; and

That of King Charles I., which was placed northward. He granted a new charter, and sold the castle and its dependencies to the city, which, to the great annoyance of the inhabitants, was before out of the mayor's jurisdiction.

It was also enriched with painting and gilding, and enclosed with an iron palisade, and surrounded by freestone steps, whence all public proclamations were read to the people, and which served the market people to sit round when the market was held in High Street. Its height from the ground was 39 ft. 6 in.

In the year 1697 it was repainted and gilded, and that in such a costly manner that no Cross in the kingdom is said to have exceeded it.

Just thirty-six years after its restoration, in 1733, it was removed at the instance of a silversmith living near, who was frightened lest the Cross should fall and crush him, and thrown by in the Guildhall as a thing of no value, until at length it was rescued from oblivion by Alderman Price

and a few other gentlemen, and with the approbation of the Dean and Chapter re-erected in the centre of College Green, a spot consecrated by the labours of Jordan, a co-missionary of S. Augustine, who there first preached Christianity to the Anglo-Saxons more than a thousand years before.

In 1763 it was again pulled down, on this occasion because it was considered an obstruction to the promenade, and deposited in a corner of the Cathedral, where it lay for some time, until Dean Barton gave it to Sir Richard Colt Hoare, of Stourton, who erected it at his seat of Stourhead, at a cost of 300*l.**

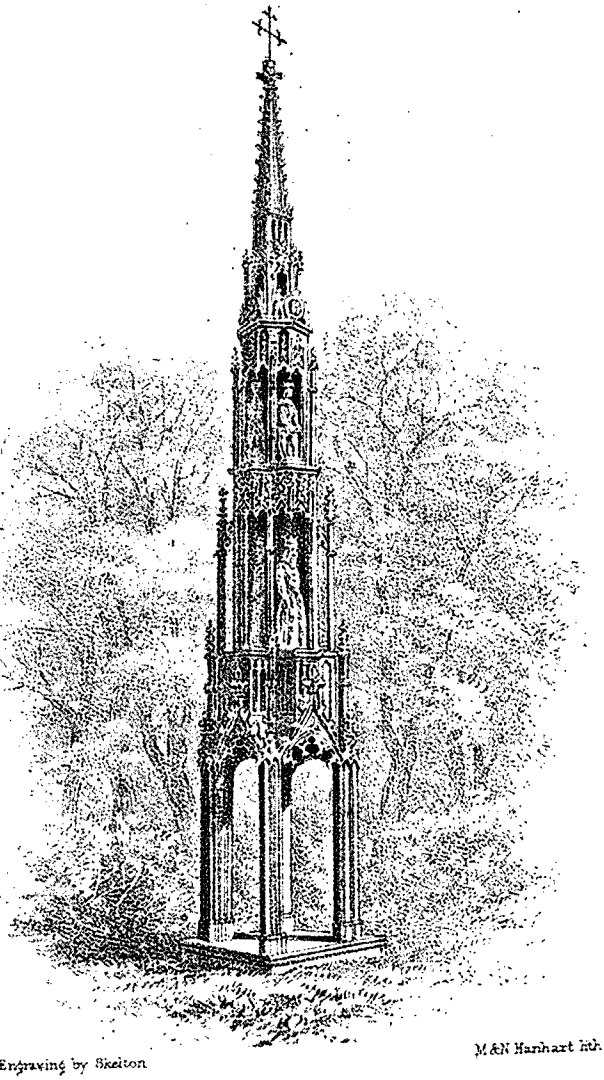
The plate of Bristol High Cross is taken from a scarce old engraving in my possession, and represents the Cross as it appeared after its restoration in 1633, at which time the upper stage of statues, and the tier above, and the curious nondescript pinnacle, were added.

In a valuable paper read before the Bristol and West of England Architectural Society, in 1849, by John Norton, Esq., the architect of the Cross now standing on College Green, it appears that the material used in the construction of the old Cross was a coarse-grained oolite, the ova being large and distinct, and hence liable to absorb moisture, and become injured by frost. This fault was remedied, as we have seen, for many centuries by the application of polychromatic colouring, which evidently formed an effectual preservative against the weather. In its present mutilated state, the Cross affords sufficient proof that originally, not the figures only, but the entire surface of the stone work was

* I am informed by Sir Henry Hoare that the Bristol High Cross was brought to Stourton in the month of August, 1766.—C. P.

thus enriched, the figures having best preserved these remains of colouring. The colours used were vermilion, blue, and gold. The gilding may be traced on every part—on the ribs of the groining, &c.; but the vermilion being the most durable, has retained its rich hue, while the blue has faded to pale grey. The dresses of the figures were for the most part painted vermilion; the mantles, and such portions of dress, blue; the borders, and other subsidiary ornamental parts, being relieved with gold. This surface of painting has long fallen into decay, and now hangs in loose flakes. Generally, one of the above-named colours may be seen in an intermediate coat or stratum.

In consequence of the lower stage of the building having on its removal to Stourhead been filled in with solid ashlar masonry for the purpose of support, the size of the original central column is uncertain. The present appearance, however, assures us that the effect would be enhanced by its being made as light as is consistent with safe construction, bearing in mind that the superincumbent weight is very considerable. The form of the arch in this stage is flat, being segmental, and nearly approaching to a four-centred arch. The ogee arch being high, a large spandrel space is thus left for foliation. The crockets and finial are unusually large, and very boldly carved; the character of the trefoil open panelling of the lower pedestals is late, and the whole detail and design quite late Decorated, almost approaching early Perpendicular. The present outline is very elegant, and there is no reason to doubt that it is very near the original form and height; for the upper portion being the lightest, may have become first decayed, and thus account for its present debased and heterodox character.



From an Engraving by Skelton

M&N Hanhart lith.

BRISTOL HIGH CROSS
AT STOURHEAD.
A.D. 1766

Some traces of a later taste are likewise discoverable in the lower stages, some of the cusp terminations resembling Italian Cherubs' heads.

From the foregoing notes we collect the following historical summary of events relating to the Cross:—

1. The High Cross, to which reference has been made in the Calendar, A.D. 1247.
2. The High Cross, described by Barrett, erected A.D. 1373, which is marked in Hœfnagle's Map *circa* A.D. 1575.
3. The same Cross, embellished and raised higher, and other statues added A.D. 1633. Reign of Charles I.
4. The same Cross, fresh painted and gilded, A.D. 1697.
5. The Cross taken down A.D. 1733, and
6. Re-erected in College Green.
7. Taken down again, A.D. 1763.
8. Removed to Stourhead, A.D. 1766.

The New Cross, Nova Crux, a not unworthy successor to the old Cross, and a monument to the good feeling which prompted the citizens of Bristol to redeem the error of thoughtlessly allowing the older structure to be alienated from them, is, in fact, a part restoration of the original design. It was erected at a cost of 450*l.*, A.D. 1851. As, however, it differs from the former in some essential particulars, we cannot do better than quote the architect's description of it. 'While,' he says, 'the old Cross exhibits throughout marks of debased and discordant additions, in the new one an attempt has been made, not only to preserve the beautiful outline, but to embody one uniformly harmonious feeling throughout, being that of the period of

its earliest foundation. For example, above the sitting figures, in the Old Cross, is a tier or frieze of boys bearing shields, in the taste of Charles's reign. This looks crowded and excrescence-like, and by its "bustle" mars the grace of the outline; and, therefore, this feature has been discarded, and the pyramidal lines made at once to spring from the upper canopies.

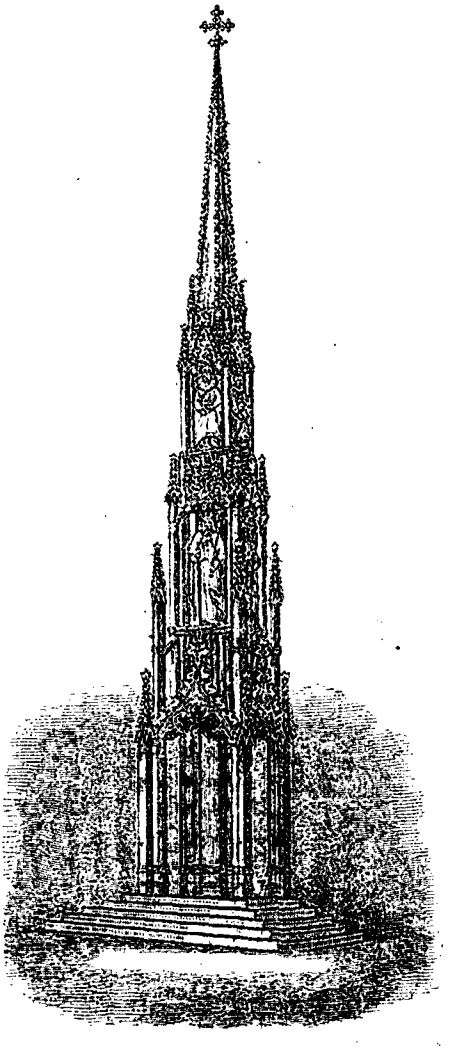
'The modern Cross is divided into four separate stages. The lower, composed of the open groined space, is square in plan, the groining ribs dying on to a central octagonal column, which they connect with the four angular buttresses, and also immediately support the lower pedestals, through whose mullioned spaces the play of light produces a good effect: a kind of rough groining shaft attaches the open work to the central construction,

'The second tier is composed of the niches and projecting canopies, under which four life-size figures may stand.

'The third tier has the same features for four sitting figures; and the fourth is the pyramidal covering or spire, completing the outline suggested by the buttresses. As a piece of mediæval construction, it affords a valuable lesson, worthy of careful study. The mode by which the enormous weight of the canopies, &c., is conveyed laterally on to the ground, by means of flying buttresses, attaching the under to the inner vertical buttresses, cannot be too much admired. Surely here the great canon of architectural construction has been well attended to, namely, that *of ornamenting construction*—for it is by these buttresses that the beautiful outline is produced.'

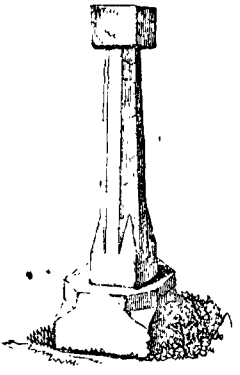
No one can view this building without being struck with the favourable contrast it presents in its architectural treat-

ment and completeness to the spurious taste with which successive ages had adorned the Old Cross: still there is one thing wanting—it lacks the venerated associations which consecrated the former edifice and made it a heritage to the citizens of Bristol, to be cherished by them and handed down to the good taste and safe keeping of future generations.



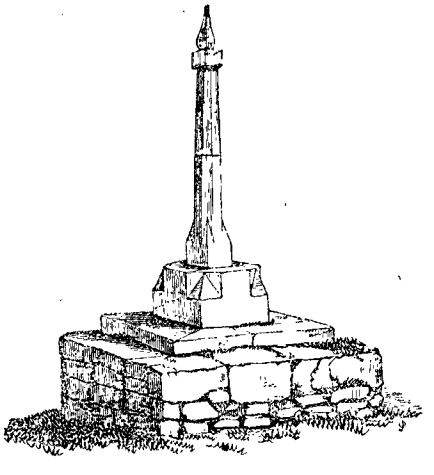
BRISTOL HIGH CROSS (RESTORED).

TRESHAM.—The socket and about six feet of the shaft of an old Cross formerly stood on the high bank close to the present churchyard gate. It has since been removed to its present site in the churchyard. A square block, ornamented with a dial, once capped the shaft; but that has long since disappeared, and has been replaced by a triangular piece of stone.



TRESHAM.

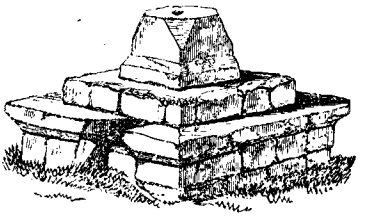
CHILD'S WICKHAM.—A village Cross, mounted on a basement of substantial masonry, 8 ft. 3 in. square, and a platform of flat stones 5 ft. 3 in. square. The socket is an octagon at its upper bed, brought to a square by broaches at the angles, and has a fine drip moulding running round its upper face; the shaft is a tapering octagon, 8 ft. in height, broached at the base and mortised into the socket with lead. Early fifteenth century.



CHILD'S WICKHAM.

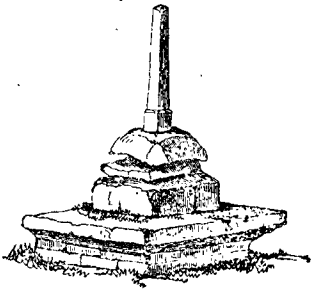
BADGWORTH.—A churchyard Cross, due east of the south porch of the church, consisting of a basement step, 6 ft. 7 in. square, with a deep drip, and a platform of stones 4 ft. 4½ in. square, on which rests the socket.

The usual chamfered angles bring the octagonal form to a square lower bed. The lead with which the shaft was mortised into the socket is still preserved. The whole is much defaced. Fifteenth century.



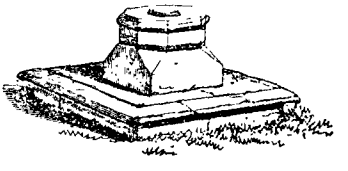
BADGWORTH.

EASTLEACH TURVILLE.—A churchyard Cross, on the south side of the church. The basement of masonry is laid with an unusually projecting splayed drip, on which is a smaller step and a socket much broken. The dimensions of the two steps are 4 ft. 6 in. and 2 ft. 5½ in. square. Until lately the shaft was nearly entire, and fixed in the socket; but a right of way through the churchyard gives to persons of iconoclastic propensities the opportunity of exercising them, which they have done accordingly, to the great injury of the structure. A portion of the shaft, 4 ft. 8 in. in length, now lies on the grass a little distance from the Cross. About late fifteenth century work.



EASTLEACH TURVILLE.

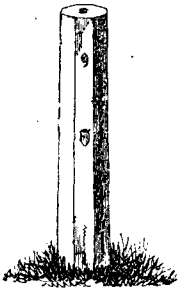
EASTLEACH MARTIN.—A fine socket on a single basement step stands in the churchyard on the south side of the church. It is of an octagonal form in its upper bed, brought to square by an oblique



EASTLEACH MARTIN.

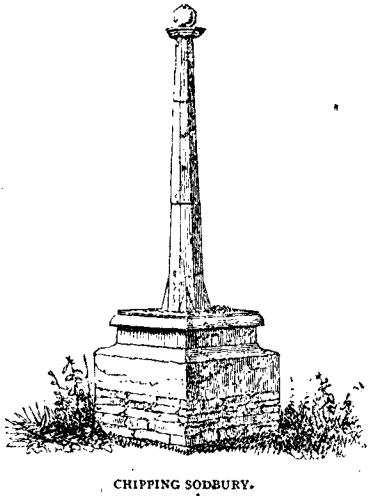
chamfer at its alternate faces: a grooved tooling runs round the upper part. It measures 2 ft. 2½ in. at its base, and 1 ft. 2½ in. in height. The step is 4 ft. 2 in. square, and has an obtuse drip. Fifteenth century.

TIBBURTON.—A fragment, rather more than three feet, of the octagonal shaft of a Cross has been preserved, firmly fixed in the ground in the churchyard on the south side of the church. It is 8 in. in diameter, and has lead inserted in a small square hole at the top, probably intended for the union of another length of shaft.



TIBBURTON.

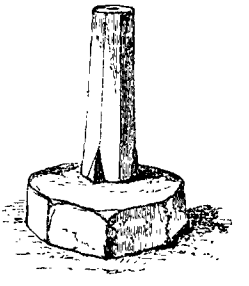
CHIPPING SODBURY.—The fine old Cross which now stands in the garden belonging to the Catholic Chapel was removed to its present site by the Rev. R. M. Cooper in 1862, who purchased it of Mr. Clark. It was formerly placed near the Portcullis Inn, but was carried thence by Mr. Parker, bailiff, in 1772, to the orchard over the brook near Trotman's Mill. The motive for the removal of the Cross in 1772 was partly veneration for a relic of the olden times, as well as to preserve it from further dilapidation; and because by so doing it



CHIPPING SODBURY.

afforded more space for public traffic. The Cross was so disposed by Mr. Parker as to be seen through a vista from his drawing-room windows in the orchard. The shaft is octagonal and tapering, perhaps originally a monolith, but now made of two stones cemented together. It is brought to a square below by the usual broaches of short outline, and is mortised into the socket. The socket in this instance is unusually large, and differs from the ordinary form in having its sides, which are those of a square, hollowed. The shaft is 8 ft. 9 in. high to the moulding, and the base 3 ft. 2 in. square by 18 in. in depth. It is raised on modern masonry. Date 1553.

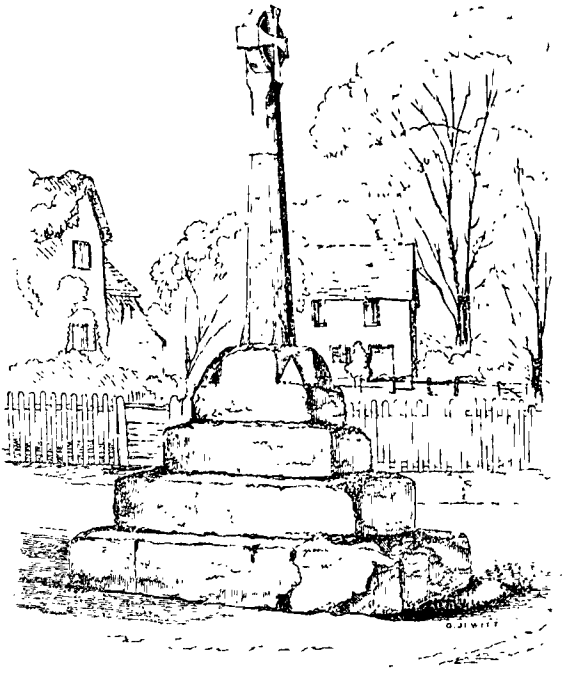
KEMPSFORD.—In a print in Sir Robert Atkyns's History of Gloucestershire, a Cross is shown standing in the centre of the village, as late as 1692. Part of one is still to be seen in a cottage garden, consisting of an hexagonal socket into which is mortised about three feet of an octagonal shaft, which I take to belong to the original village Cross. It is well preserved, and has been at this spot time out of mind. Fourteenth century.



KEMPSFORD.

HEMPSTED.—The date of this village Cross is considered to be about the end of the fourteenth or beginning of the fifteenth century. When Mr. Lysons first came to reside at Hempsted Court in 1836 there were the steps only, but in 1839 the shaft was discovered under the soil in the

churchyard, and he had it restored to its original position. About 1850 the upper portion of the shaft and the Cross



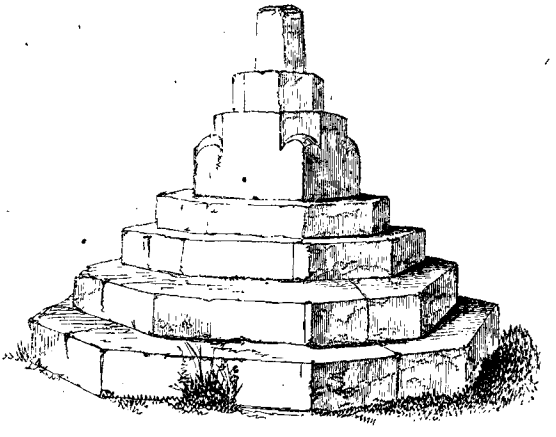
HEMPSTED CROSS (RESTORED).

surmounting it were carved under his direction and placed on the top.

LEIGHTERTON.—There is authority for believing that at one time a Cross was set up in this village.

STAUNTON NEAR COLEFORD.—Four steps, the socket, and about a foot of the shaft of the village Cross stand on a bank just outside the churchyard gate. The steps are eight-sided, and measure respectively 4 ft. 4 in., 3 ft. 10 in., 2 ft. 8 in., and 2 ft. on each face, making in the lower base step a circumference of 34 ft. 8 in. The

socket is a ponderous stone 3 ft. square at base, having its upper bed chamfered to an octagon, and large broaches of convex outline at the alternate faces. It supports an octagonal plinth, into which is mortised with lead the fragment of a shaft which retains traces of its octagonal form. The total height is about 8 ft. The lower step until lately was hid from view by the accumulation of earth, but this having been removed, the good proportion of the whole structure is seen. It is built of the same forest stone as the other Crosses in the Forest of Dean. Probably early fifteenth century work.



STAUNTON NEAR COLEFORD.

TEMPLE GUITING.—There is said to be a Cross at a place called 'Stump's Cross,' in the neighbourhood.

GLOUCESTER.—Very little appears to be known concerning this fine old Cross. It stood near the Tolsey, and, like Bristol High Cross, occupied the centre of the space formed by the intersection of the four principal streets. The date of its erection is conjectural. Its site is marked in Speed's Map of Gloucester, A.D. 1610 The plate is taken from an engraving in the *Vetusta Monumenta*, and the writer, in describing it, is of opinion

that it was as ancient, at least, as the time of Richard III. Fosbrooke, also, considers the towers and vanes with which the top of the Cross was decorated as a certain mark of the architecture of the fifteenth century. Its height was 34½ ft. It was octagonal in form, and consisted of three tiers or stages, the upper tier embattled and decorated with towers and vanes, from which sprang a diminishing eight-sided shaft, in three parts, the lower loopholed, the two upper slightly ornamented, supporting a globe and cross. The style of the whole of this part is bastard, and has no affinity with that of the two lower tiers. It is not improbable that a crocketed spire may have formerly surmounted the second tier, which would have been in keeping with the rest of the architecture. An embattled moulding ran round the base of the second stage. In the basement the arches were closed by masonry, but the stage above was divided into eight niches, uncanopied, in which the following statues of Kings and Queens were placed, and for the accompanying reasons:—

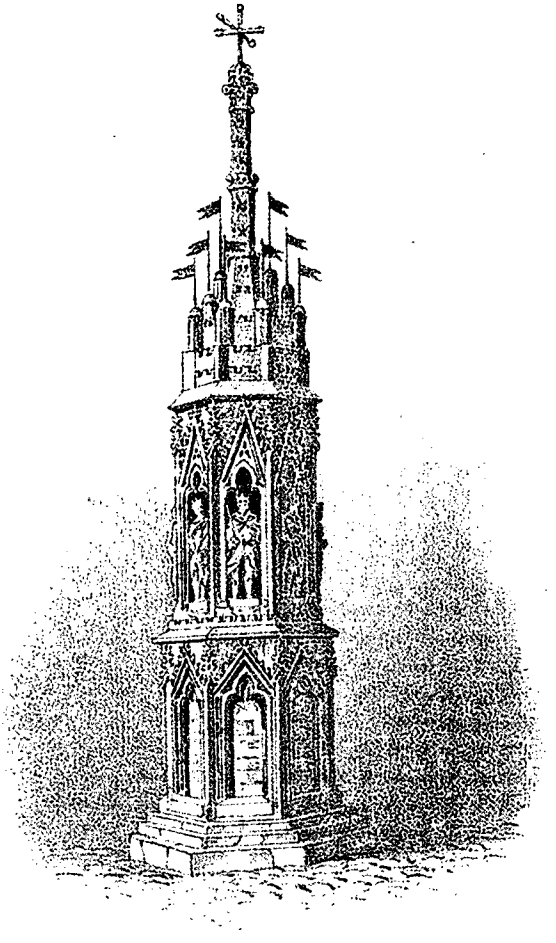
That of King John because he was Earl of Gloucester, and afterwards, when he was King, made it a borough-town.

That of King Henry III. because he was crowned here, and by the grant of a charter made it a corporation.

That of Eleanor his Queen because she founded S. Bartholomew's Hospital.

That of King Edward III. because of his great renown, and success against France.

That of King Richard II. because he resided some time in this city, and held a parliament therein.



M&N Hanhart's lith.

From an Old Engraving by Vertue.

GLOUCESTER HIGH CROSS.

That of King Richard III. because he was Duke of Gloucester, and when he became King annexed the two hundreds of Dudston and King's Barton to the jurisdiction of the Corporation.

That of Queen Elizabeth because she established the Protestant Religion; and

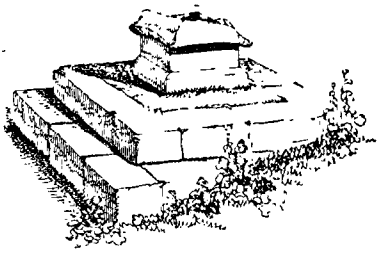
That of King Charles I. to show the detestation of the citizens of the former disloyalty acted in this place:—a piece of unworthy adulation on the part of the Mayor and Corporation who sanctioned it.

It is thought that the circumstance of the statue of Richard III. having been one of the eight, confirms the opinion that the Cross was erected during this King's reign, as it is scarcely probable it should have been placed there after his death under the reign of the Tudors. The statues of Queen Elizabeth (a Tudor) and King Charles I. (a Stuart) were erected there, it is naïvely remarked, 'for particular reasons.'

In the year 1749, an Act of Parliament having passed for taking down several buildings, and enlarging the streets and market-place in the city of Gloucester, it was deemed necessary, in order to carry out its provisions, to remove the High Cross. This was done accordingly; but what became of it after its demolition, all researches to discover have been in vain. Probably its fragments were dispersed to be used for building purposes elsewhere—a fate not uncommon to ancient Crosses.*

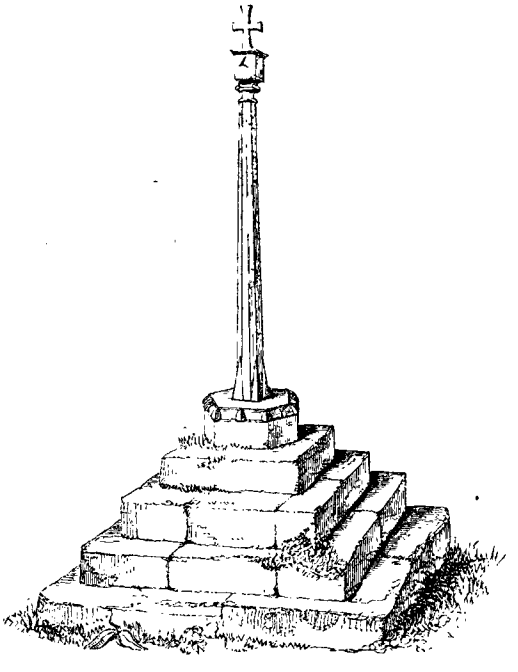
* There is a lithograph extant, published by the late Mr. Jew, of Gloucester, in 1841, which purports to represent the Cross and adjacent houses as they appeared A.D. 1520. It is, however, only a clever emanation from the pencil of Mr. Arthur Montague, who, in reply to my enquiry, assures me it is purely ideal, and that he has no authority whatever for the style of architecture he has introduced in it.—C. P.

BUCKLAND.—A churchyard Cross, consisting of two square steps and a fine old socket, which has a deep undulating drip moulding, square sides and plinth, and a large deep mortise for the insertion of the shaft. The top step has disappeared. Late fourteenth century.



BUCKLAND.

SAINTBURY.—A village Cross, thus finished about twenty years ago, at which time the dial and Maltese Cross were added. Previously a stone pineapple, painted, ornamented the top. The shaft is a tapering octagon 11 ft. 2 in. in height, having broaches at the base; the socket is octagonal, and has its upper edge canted, the face being interrupted by small double guttæ at the angles and on each side. The four steps measure respectively 9 ft. 7 in., 7 ft. 3 in., 5 ft., and 3 ft. 8 in. square. This is supposed to have been the resting-place for the funeral proces-

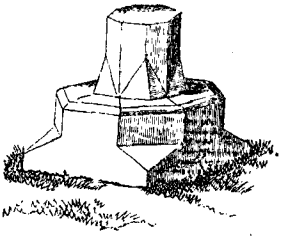


SAINTBURY.

sion before it started up the hill to the church. Lower features, about fifteenth century.

HILLESLEY.—Part of the shaft of a Cross was discovered in pulling down the old cottage which replaced S. Giles's Cross.

NOTGROVE.—The socket of a churchyard Cross, 2 ft. 3 in. square by 11 in. in height, octagonal above, with the alternate angles chamfered to a square. A foot of the octagonal shaft is mortised into it with lead. Late thirteenth century.

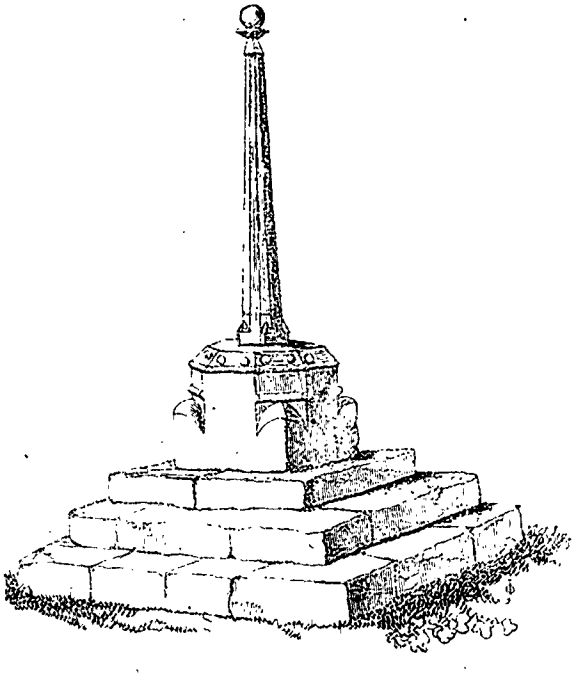


NOTGROVE.

DEERHURST.—There was formerly a Cross erected in this village, but it has long since disappeared.

TORTWORTH.—A churchyard Cross of some pretensions. It is situated, like that at Abbot's Leigh, exactly opposite to what was once the north door of the church, but which has been closed for the last sixty years. It is mounted on three steps, measuring respectively 9 ft. 1 in., 7 ft. 2 in., and 5 ft. square. The socket is 37 in. square by 30 in. deep. The upper bed is octagonal, and is brought to a square in its lower bed by handsome convex broaches of remarkably bold outline. A fillet moulding ornaments each chamfer. The upper edge of the socket is deeply canted, and has two ornamental bosses, much worn on each face. The shaft is a tapering octagon 7 ft. 7 in. in height, having

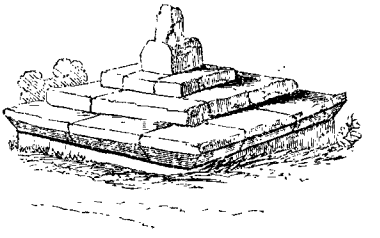
on the top a four-sided capital and ball, both modern. It is mortised into the socket with lead. Decorated fourteenth century.



TORTWORTH.

HARESFIELD.—A village Cross once stood at a spot which goes by that name still. It was destroyed about forty years ago by Archdeacon Rudge, the then vicar. The Archdeacon being a good classical scholar, and editor, amongst other works, of a 'History of Gloucestershire,' was also a surveyor of roads, and, it might be added, a mender as well, since a part being in a defective condition, and the farmers too busy at the time to haul stone, he took the Cross, which was lying convenient for the purpose, and broke it up to repair the ruts with. The present post-mistress of Haresfield, Priscilla Niblett, lives within a few yards of the spot where the Cross stood, and remembers it

perfectly; for although she is of the mature age of ninety-three, she retains complete possession of all her faculties. The remains of the Cross consisted of a small portion of the shaft mortised into a square socket, raised on three steps, all of the usual simple type, and apparently of fifteenth century work.



HARESFIELD.

AMNEY HOLY-ROOD.—Under a heap of rubbish deposited in a small recess on the south side of the church of Amney Crucis, the doorway of an ancient Rood staircase, I was fortunate enough to find the head of the old Cross, whose base and shaft stand in the adjoining churchyard.

The name of this parish is properly Amney of the Holy-Rood. It is commonly called Amney Crucis. The title first occurs in a grant of William II., which recites that the Benedictine Abbey of Tewkesbury was seized of court-leets, waifs, and felons' goods in Amney Holy-Rood. In Domesday Book the three parishes of Amney Holy-Rood, Amney S. Mary, and Amney S. Peter, which are all contiguous to each other, are included under the general appellation of Omenie, or Omenel, more frequently the former, so that historians have found no little difficulty in assigning the different manors and dependencies of each parish to their proper place in the survey.

Rudder is of opinion that the parish is called Holy-Rood 'on account of a large Cross' erected there; and because our Saxon ancestors called the Cross ƿalıȝ ƿoƀe. And Sir

Robert Atkyns says it is derived from the Holy-Rood in the church, and to distinguish it from other parishes. Most of the Roods were pulled down in the churches before Elizabeth's accession to the throne, so that none probably remained in the church at Amney when Sir Robert Atkyns wrote — a hundred and fifty years afterwards. Rudder's reason for the parish being called Holy-Rood is founded on the supposition that the Cross and the Holy-Rood are synonymous. The latter, however, is such a particular and recognised form of the ordinary representation of the Crucifix, that it may be said to constitute a distinction between them. For example, the complete Rood was always accompanied by the figures of S. John and the Virgin placed one on each side of the Cross, in allusion to the 26th verse of the 19th chapter of S. John, 'When Jesus therefore saw his mother and the disciple standing by, whom he loved,' &c. In the Articles of Visitation for the diocese of Canterbury, set forth by Cardinal Pole, in 1567, it is asked 'Whether they have a Rood in their church of a decent stature with Mary and John.' In the 'Ancient Rites of Durham,' p. 57, the following passage occurs, in allusion to the Rood: 'Also, above the height of all upon the wall stood the goodliest and most famous *Rood* that was in all this land, with the picture of Mary on one side of our Saviour, and that of S. John on the other.'

A church was built here before the time of the Conquest, but the Cross is of some centuries' later date. It consists of two steps measuring respectively 7 ft. 6 in. and 5 ft. square, a handsome octagonal socket, hewn out of a solid block of stone, having its upper face worked into a

deep drip moulding, and a tapering octagonal shaft formed of two stones cemented together by an iron bracket, its base squared by broaches of an ornamental character and fixed with lead into the mortise. The total height is about 10 ft.

The head is in good preservation. Perhaps after having been overthrown it was carefully hid away in the church, with the view of being produced as a warranty at a future time, should a restoration of ecclesiastical lands ever again take place. But as that day is now passed, and with it the object of concealment, we cease to regard it in any other light than as an interesting record of past events, conveying to us the particulars of an ancient custom, and eliciting not uninstructive thoughts on the gratitude and piety of our forefathers.

The head of the Cross is divided into four niches, supported by richly carved Gothic buttresses, containing figures sculptured in relief.

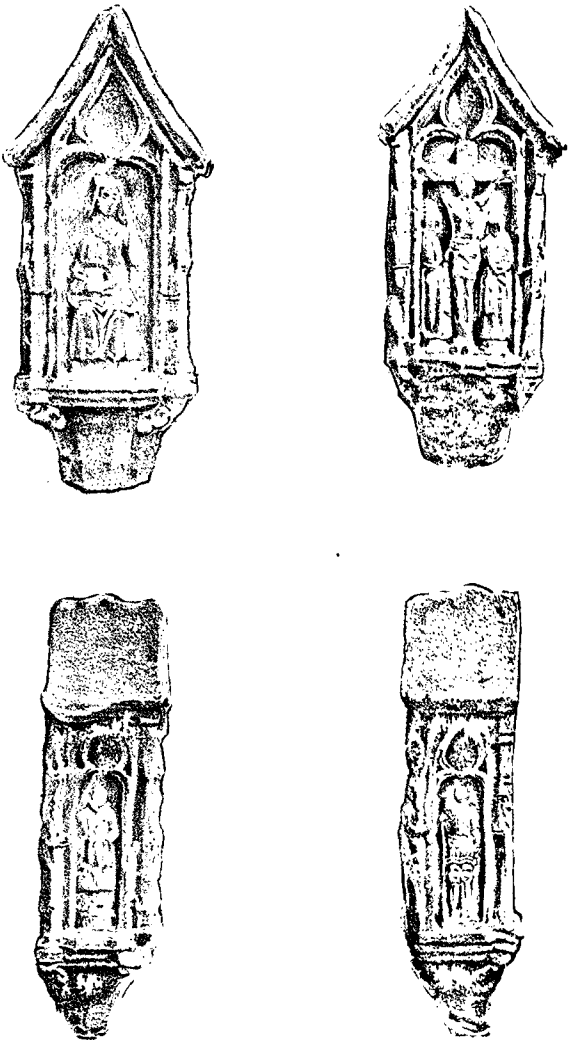
The nicely chiselled Virgin and Child, which occupies one of the large niches, is supposed to have some reference to the adjoining parish of Amney S. Mary, but neither Amney S. Mary nor Amney S. Peter were held by the same Abbey as Amney Holy-Rood. Amney Holy-Rood was a dependent of Tewkesbury Abbey; and as this Abbey was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, she is here presented in the character of its tutelary saint, and as a testimony to the recognition of the rights of the Abbey over this church and parish. It is to be remarked that the Infant is placed on the right knee, the reverse of the usual custom of mothers. The left arm of the Virgin is mutilated, but looks as if it

had been raised in the act of benediction. Her costume is a close-fitting bodice, laced in front, and a tunic fastened by a cross *patée* on the breast.

In the second niche is a carving of a complete Rood, namely,—the Crucifix, with the figures of S. John and the Virgin, placed one on each side. S. John is leaning on a staff. As in the former instance the Virgin symbolised the Abbey of which she was the Patron, so now we have the Holy-Rood occupying, as may be seen, the second large compartment of the head of the Cross, typifying the church that was dedicated to it, and from which the parish was named.

It is not a little singular that this seems to be the only evidence extant that illustrates the title of the parish. The principal Rood may have been a 'Rood of Grace' placed in the church, to which the customary honours were paid, as exhibiting, under the attestation of the sign manual and seal of the Bishop or of the Pope, the high prerogative of miraculous power or of intercessory agency. To this Rood may have been attached the means of obtaining certain 'graces' by those who should adore and invoke it with prayers and penitence, and thus a considerable augmentation to the revenues of the little church would accrue by the periodical influx of visitors making pilgrimages to this renowned spot.

The two remaining niches are filled, one by the figure of an individual of the sacerdotal order, dressed in canonicals, holding in his right hand a plan, and a book in his left, which I take to be intended for no other than Gyraldus, first Abbot of Tewkesbury, through whose instigations the



C.P del.

AMNEY HOLY ROOD.

Abbey was rebuilt, or rather refounded, and who also procured for it the high distinction of a Mitre; the other by the effigy of a Knight in armour, grasping in his right hand a spear reversed. In the whole list of benefactors to the Abbey, no name will be found more worthy of being thus commemorated than that of Robert Fitz-Haimon, to whom William Rufus gave Brictric's Honor in Gloucestershire, as a reward for the great labours and perils he had undergone for his father William I.

To give some idea who this Robert Fitz-Haimon was, we must be permitted to quote an abstract from the quaint old Chronicle.

He was a valiant knight, the son of Herman, Lord of Astreme-Ville, in Normandy. 'In the year 1102, at the persuasion of his wife Sibyll, and of Gyraldus the Abbot of Cranbourne, this Robert Fitz-Haimon, being influenced by a Divine Spirit, new builds the church of Tewkesbury, with all the offices, to the glory of God, and to the honour of the Virgin Mary, and endowed it with many lands, rents, and large possessions. And because it was judged that this place did exceed the Monastery of Cranbourne in fruitfulness of soil, in pleasantness of situation, and in rich lands, therefore Abbot Gyraldus and the monks, in the year above mentioned, remove unto Tewkesbury, leaving only a Prior and two monks at Cranbourne, who should at all times after keep up the memory of the founders of that place, and changed the Abbey of Cranbourne into a Priory, and did subject it alway for the future to the Abbey of Tewkesbury; and so the Priory of Tewkesbury came to be advanced to the high honour of an Abbey. This honourable Robert

Fitz-Haimon, after having founded this famous monastery, and performed many great actions, died, and went to heaven in the month of March, in the year 1107, and in the seventh year of the reign of King Henry I., and his body was buried in the chapter-house of Tewkesbury, as was then the custom of many reverend and great noblemen. His body was afterwards received by the care of Robert, the third Abbot of blessed memory, into the church, and was honourably interred between two pillars on the right hand of the presbytery. This was done about the year 1241; and afterwards, in process of time, Thomas Parker, the eighteenth Abbot, in the year 1397, caused a chapel of stone, admirably carved, to be erected over him, and round the top to be written: "In ista Capella jacet Dnus Robertus Filius Hammonis hujus loci Fundator," and appointed mass for the dead to be celebrated every day, with the collect for the founders, "Have mercy on us, Lord," &c., in perpetual memory of their founder and his wife.'

When we remember how Robert Fitz-Haimon was associated with Abbot Gyraldus in his pious intentions of founding the Abbey of Tewkesbury; how he abandoned the profession of arms to become a benefactor to his church, endowing it with his vast possessions, and employing the declining years of his life in its services; we are not surprised that so much veneration should have been paid to his memory, or that Abbot Parker, three hundred years afterwards, should have evinced his grateful estimation of his character by building an ornamental chapel over his tomb, and instituting a daily sacred service for the dead. To Abbot Parker, who was a man of refined taste and genuine

piety, I am inclined to attribute the erection of this Cross; and the conjecture receives support from the circumstance that the costume and style of architecture are those of the fourteenth century, the period of Parker's labours.

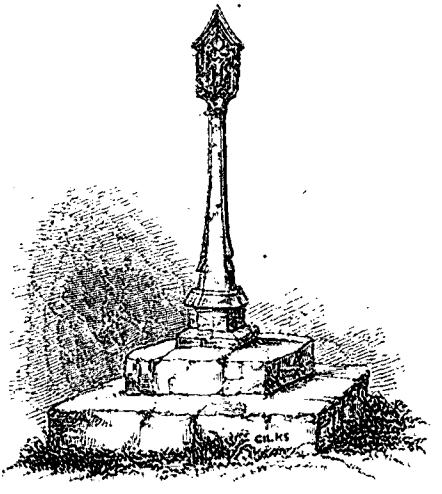
From the foregoing considerations may we not conclude that this Cross is an historical monument which was erected by Abbot Parker, at the close of the fourteenth century:—

1st. As a testimony to the dependence of the church and parish of Amney Holy-Rood to the Abbey of Tewkesbury;

2nd. To authenticate the title of the said church and parish; and—

3rd. To perpetuate the memory of Abbot Gyraldus and Robert Fitz-Haimon, the pious founders of the Abbey of Tewkesbury?*

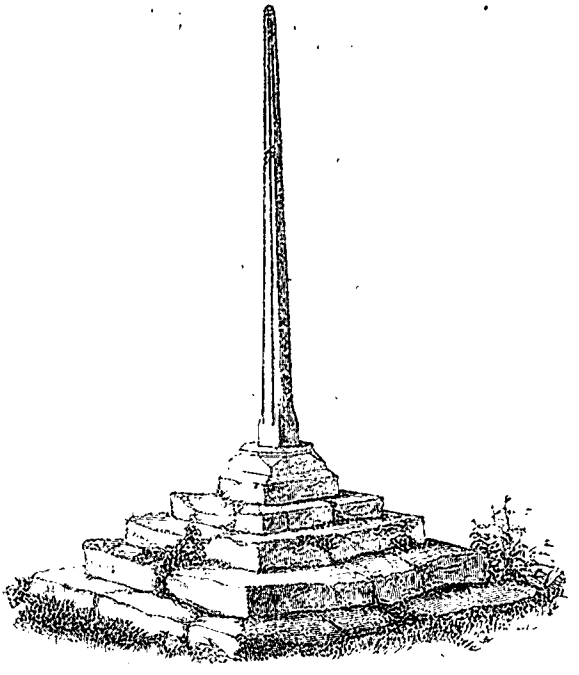
* This Cross has since been restored in good taste by the Rev. Canon Howman.



CROSS AT AMNEY HOLY-ROOD (RESTORED).

DOWDESWELL.—A Cross formerly stood in the churchyard, but it has been removed within living memory.

TREDINGTON.—This elegant Cross stands on the south side of the parish church. It is mounted on four steps, measuring respectively 10 ft., 8 ft. 4 in., 6 ft. 4 in.,

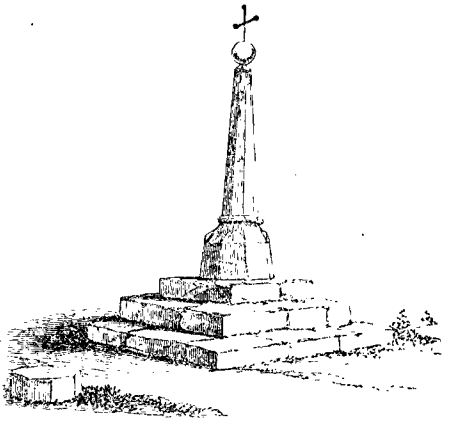


TREDINGTON.

and 4 ft. 9 in. square. The socket is octagonal in form, finished to a square by broaches to half its depth, and then a deep cant enlarges the square in its lower bed, and gives it an appearance of elegance and solidity. The shaft is a slender tapering octagonal monolith, 12 ft. 8 in. in height, squared by broaches at its base, and mortised into the socket with lead. Three or four drill-holes and a rough surface on the east face indicate the place where either an escutcheon or small crucifix was attached. On the north side the steps have sunk a little, but the dislocation has not

affected the perpendicular of the shaft. Two stones in the middle of the basement step have dropped considerably. There is a tradition in the village that a person of eminence lies interred beneath the Cross, and that these stones mark the opening to the tomb. A chiselled surface on one of the corner stones suggests the idea that a brass had been at one time let into it. The whole structure is remarkable for its beautifully attenuated shaft and fine proportions. Fourteenth century.

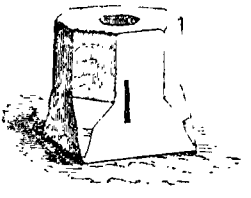
SOUTH CERNEY.—A modernised village Cross. Some of the stones of the steps belonged to the old structure. The solid-looking shaft is surmounted by a ball and iron cross. It is raised on three steps. The veneration in which such a debased structure is held may be judged of by the fact that it has become a valuable post for the village bill sticker.



SOUTH CERNEY.

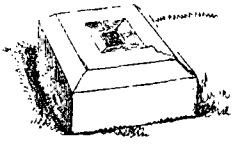
BARNSLEY.—Several Crosses are remembered to have been erected in this village. Some of the stones of one of them (perhaps the principal, from their size) were worked into the steps leading to a granary. Portions of the shaft of probably the same Cross are preserved in the garden of the clerk, who has a distinct recollection that it had three large steps, and a base or socket, about 3 ft. square.

HARNHILL.—There is the socket of an old Cross in the stableyard of the Rev. T. Maurice, the Rector. It was found lying about in the village, but its original site is unknown. It is of the usual octagon form, with bold deep chamfers at the angles, and a mortise for the insertion of the shaft. Probably fifteenth century.

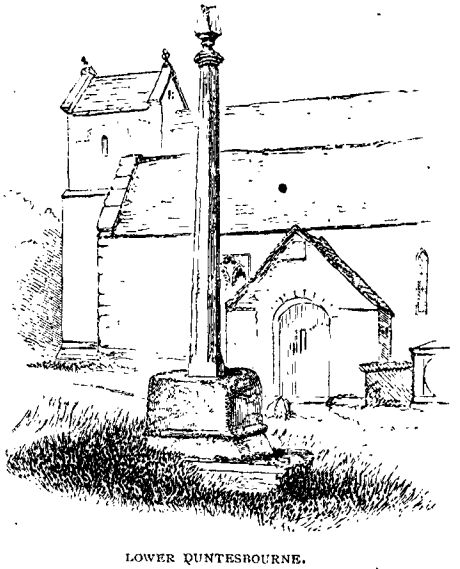


HARNHILL.

DRIFFIELD.—When the church was being restored about two years ago, a block of stone was found built into the porch, which once formed the socket of a Cross. It is of the simplest type, and has a square mortise for the reception of the shaft. A fragment of the shaft was discovered at the same time. It is now placed in the churchyard.



DRIFFIELD.

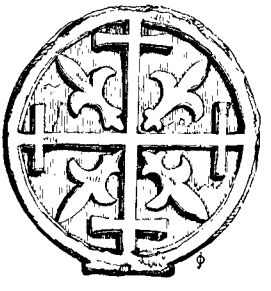


LOWER DUNTESBOURNE.

LOWER DUNTESBOURNE.—A remarkable Cross stands in the churchyard, west of the south porch of the church: a slender octagonal monolith, 8 ft. 7 in. in height, is mortised with lead into a socket 31 in. square, hollowed at the sides, with a fillet running

round it about 8 in. from the bottom. It stands on a single basement step made of four large stones. The shaft is finished at the top by two light circular mouldings, and supports the remains of carved figures in broken canopies. Early English.

BROMSBERROW.—In the year 1857, at the time the church was being restored, a sculptured stone, said to be the head of an old Cross, was found built into the east wall. It measures 12 in. in diameter, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. in thickness, and is grooved on its circumference. It is carved alike on both sides, the subject being a cross *crosslet*, the transoms somewhat enlarged at the extremities, between four fleurs-de-lis. A rough flat part of the edge of the disk indicates where it was joined to the shaft. The church is dedicated to the Virgin, and it is supposed that the fleurs-de-lis may be intended as symbolical of her. The work is apparently Norman, and of early date, probably late thirteenth century.



BROMSBERROW.

WESTCOTE.—In the churchyard is a fine specimen of the sculptured base of a Cross. It was removed to its present position a few years ago, having before formed part of a garden wall. It is believed that it belonged to the village or churchyard Cross of Coombe Baskerville, a place which formerly existed within the parish, but the church, village, and everything belonging to it have been

demolished entirely; not a vestige has there been seen within the recollection of the oldest inhabitant. The base is an octagon formed by eight niches with trefoil heads, in which are placed sculptured figures, but they are so vague and mutilated that it is impossible to make out much about them. One is evidently that of a prelate mitred and coped, and another apparently that of a monk holding up something in his hand. As the Baskervilles were a powerful family, and held Westcote, and one of them became a monk of Gloucester as early as the twelfth century, the history of the Cross is most probably associated with the history of this family. But the accounts are very meagre. The dimensions of the base are 2 ft. 1 in. in height, and 2 ft. 1 in. in diameter. A work evidently of great antiquity, perhaps late thirteenth century.

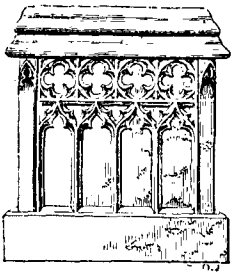
WESTCOTE.

CIRENCESTER.—Amongst the few memorials of the ecclesiastical character of Cirencester, before the Dissolution of Religious Houses in the sixteenth century, six ancient Crosses are known to have been left standing about eighty years ago. One was fixed in the open part of Dyer Street, where the pig market is held, and was commonly called 'the Pig Cross,' and ornamented with a sun-dial; another was placed in the churchyard; a third occupied the point where

Sheep Street crosses Castle Street; a fourth was built near the southern extremity of the borough, hard by a stream of water running at the end of Dyer Street; a fifth marked the intersection of Cricklade Street with Leuse Lane; and the sixth was the High Cross, which was erected opposite the Ram Inn in the market-place, and is the only one that has been preserved, the others having disappeared as the work of town improvement advanced. About the year 1785 the High Cross being very much dilapidated, and occupying a large space of ground, was taken down, and removed to a site adjacent an avenue of firs in Oakley Park, the seat of Earl Bathurst, called, from the intertwining of their lofty branches resembling the arched aisle of a cathedral, 'the Cathedral Walk.' Here it remained for some years, but was afterwards transferred to a spot equally picturesque, in the neighbourhood of the Wood House in the same park. It is described by Rudder as follows:—

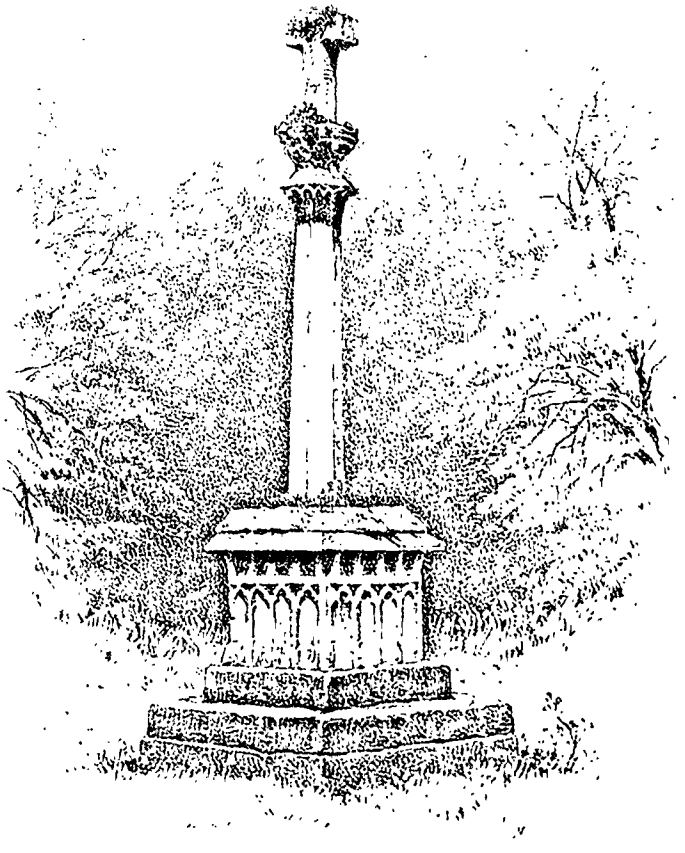
'The High Cross stood upon a base about 10 ft. square, with four steps on each side, gradually diminishing from the lower to the uppermost. From the middle of the base rose an octangular column or pillar, supporting a capital which was much defaced and broken, but it appeared to have been ornamented with carvings, of which the subjects could not be distinguished. It is supposed, however, to have been a very curious piece of workmanship, as more than ordinary care had been taken to preserve what remained of it. It was encompassed with an iron collar, from which four bars proceeded to the upper stage, and thus it was supported on the column or pillar of the Cross. Over this capital the Cross was fixed.'

Brief as this account is, it obviously refers to the Cross now standing in Oakley Park; and although since that period the fragment has become still more mutilated, it fortunately retains, in its principal features, sufficient evidence to prove its identity. As a work of the fourteenth century, this Cross affords a good illustration of the style of decorative art expended upon these ecclesiastical monuments. It is, however, by no means perfect—the only parts of the original structure that have survived the ravages of time being the more solid portions, such as the pedestal, shaft, and fragments of the capital.



CIRENCESTER.

The pedestal is hewn out of a single block of stone, 3 ft. square by 2 ft. 6 in. in height, and presents on each of its sides a façade, ornamented with four deeply chiselled Gothic arcades, surmounted by panelled quatrefoils, which are overhung to the extent of some inches by a deep moulded drip coping. It rests on a plinth which is placed on a heavy basement step, too heavy to be in character with the rest of the building. From the centre of the pedestal springs a remarkably fine octagonal shaft of solid stone 6 ft. 4 in. in height and 1 ft. in diameter, having rounded flutings at the angles, and the remains of four broaches at the socket. It is conjectured, by the presence of these broaches, that originally the shaft was set in a smaller block, thus bringing the termination to a square; which supposition would render the design more harmonious, by taking off the apparent abruptness of so small a column rising from so large a pedestal.

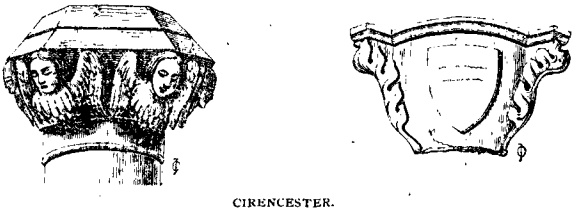


C.P. del

M & N Hanhart lith

CIRENCESTER HIGH CROSS

With reference to the capital, what remains of it is too much broken and obscured by the growth of patches of moss to allow the observer to do more than distinguish the mere rudiments of the carvings alluded to by Rudder. But it may be remarked, by way of example, that on the under side of, and as it were supporting the abacus, there are distinct indications of well-executed carvings of angels' heads and wings, of which the wood-cut gives a good idea; also in the spaces between the corbels, which project at the four



CIRENCESTER.

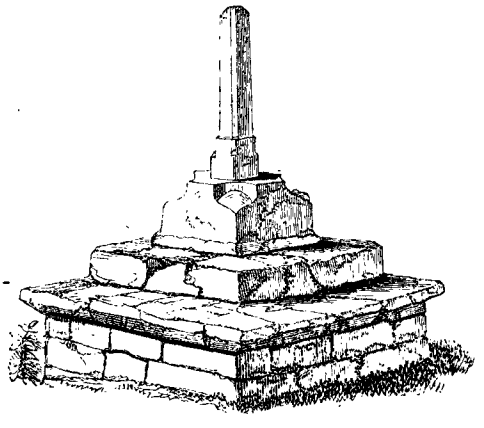
angles of the capital, there are the remains of escutcheons; but no trace is left of the emblazonments with which they were, doubtless, originally enriched. One of the shields, according to Mr. Lysons, bore the arms of France and England quartered. After comparing the Cirencester High Cross with similar structures, and judging from analogy, it seems clear that the corbels once supported slender buttresses, which, being arched at the top, formed light canopied niches, in which figures were placed. The ponderous stone in the shape of a cross, now surmounting the capital, is no part of the original design, having been put up a few years ago.

When perfect this Cross could not have measured less than 20 ft. in elevation from the ground to the summit, and some idea may be formed of its handsome character from the general effect of its remains. I can dis-

cover no record which speaks of its being set up to commemorate any particular event. There is a deed extant dated A.D. 1413, in which it is called Noba Crur, thereby implying the existence of older Crosses than this, which would approximately fix the date of its erection at a period corresponding with that of its architecture. Presuming it to have been built just prior to the introduction of the Perpendicular style, or towards the reign of Richard II., we are carried back to the period of the abbacy of Nicholas d'Ameney, or about twenty-six years before Abbot Best procured the mitre for the Abbey of Cirencester, and a seat among the Barons for himself and his successors.

During the sitting of the Rump Parliament all banns were ordered to be published three several market days at the High Cross, and afterwards the parties to be married by a justice of the peace.

ELKSTONE.—In former times a very handsome and lofty High Cross stood in this parish.

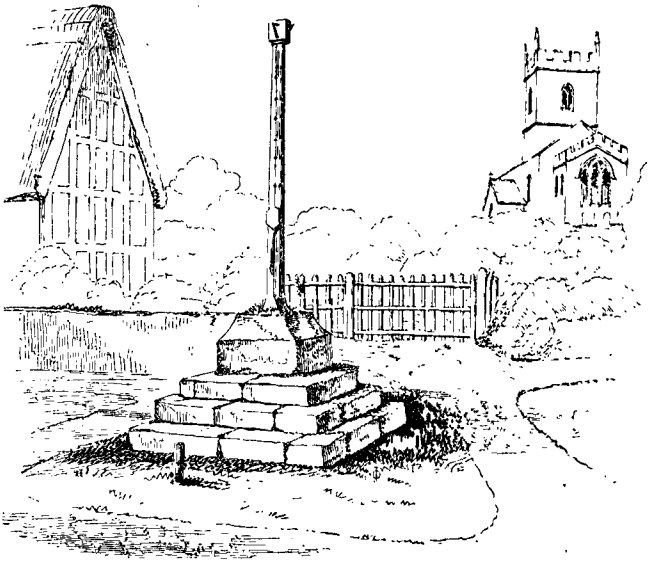


DAGLINGWORTH.

DAGLINGWORTH.—A churchyard Cross. Two heavy steps, on which is set a socket with a moulded fillet running round its base. The shaft is square, having the angles chamfered, and is mortised into the socket. The whole is massive in

character and much weatherworn. It is supposed to be of great antiquity, perhaps coeval with the church, which is said to be Anglo-Saxon.

ASHTON-UNDER-HILL.—A village Cross, wanting the head, in fair preservation. The three steps measure respectively 8 ft. 4 in., 6 ft. 8 in., and 4 ft. 5 in. square, by a diminishing series of 12 in., 11 in., and 10 in. in depth. The socket is very solid, and has a deep cant in its upper bed,

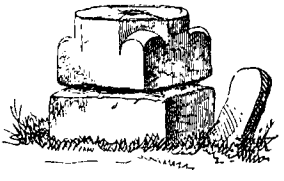


ASHTON-UNDER-HILL.

and the remains of broaches at the angles. The shaft is octagonal, 8 ft. 9 in. in height, and is mortised into the socket with lead. A square block with a dial was once fixed on the top; but this has long since been blown down, and is deposited in a cottage garden close by. On the east face is sculptured an escutcheon, perhaps at one time charged with a coat of arms, but now blank. The mason's

chisel marks are well seen on the east side of the shaft. Early fifteenth century.

LOWER GUITING.—There are the relics of two old Crosses in this parish: one in the churchyard just opposite the church porch, and the other in the village on an eminence equivalent to the village green. That in the churchyard is simply a socket, in outline not unlike that at Tortworth, with large bold broaches at the angles. A foot or two of the shaft was formerly fixed into it, and the top having been hollowed out by the action of rain, the cavity became filled with water, and so lately as twenty-five years ago or thereabouts infants were baptised in it. This singular and not inappropriate font has at last disappeared. Fourteenth century.

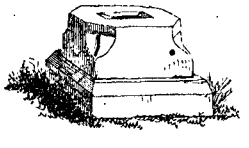


LOWER GUITING.

LOWER GUITING.

The Cross on the green consisted within living memory of a shaft of considerable size, with a large socket and steps, all in good preservation. It is now in a state of utter dilapidation, the block much defaced, and the steps in decay.

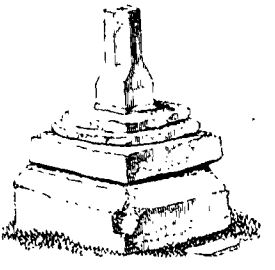
BARNWOOD.—There is a socket of a Cross hid from view by laurels, in a private garden, which probably belonged to a Cross in the adjoining churchyard, although there are now no other remains to



BARNWOOD.

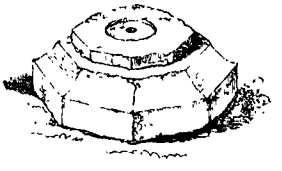
denote its exact site. Its outline is that of an octagon brought to a square by deep concave chamfers, having their midline raised to a rib. It measures 28 in. square by 17 in. in height, and has a large mortise 12 in. square for the insertion of the shaft. Late fourteenth century.

COBERLEY.—Opposite the south porch of the church is the socket of a Cross formed of two stones, the lower stone is square, having its upper face deeply bevelled, and the angles chamfered; the other its lower bed square, and its top worked into a circular plinth by two diminishing dressings. About 2 ft. 4 in. of the octagonal shaft is mortised with lead into this socket.



COBERLEY.

Near a doorway leading into a neighbouring garden is the socket of another Cross octagonal in form, and furnished with a mortise, in this instance simply a drill-hole, into which an iron tenon of the shaft fitted. Both fourteenth century.



COBERLEY.

IRON ACTON.—Iron Acton lies about three miles west of Sodbury, and twenty-three south of Gloucester. It is said to owe its name to a bed of iron ore, worked from time immemorial, in the neighbourhood; and to a forest of oaks which flourished on the same spot—Æc: Sax., signifying an oak tree. Instead of this derivation, it is not improbable the manor took its title from the family of the

Actons or Actunes, into whose possession it came soon after the Norman Conquest. John de Acton was seized of this manor in the beginning of the reign of Henry III., and it appears by a record of 15th Ed. I. that he and his ancestors enjoyed this, time out of mind. A lineal descendant of John de Acton, Sir John de Acton, died seized of this manor 17th Ed. III., but, be it remarked, left no issue.

The Cross is situated in the churchyard, on the north side of the church. Lysons, who has etched it, concludes it to be of the time of Henry VI. Bigland (created Garter Principal King of Arms, A.D. 1780) connects the date of the Cross with that of the church, which he also refers to the fifteenth century. He describes it thus:—'The Cross has four sides, on each side two shields, one or two of which are plain, two or three seem to have mechanical instruments, such as hatchets, &c., carved on them, but those which had arms are obliterated.' This, however, is inaccurate, since, with the exception of being somewhat weather-worn, and materially differing from Garter's description of them, the devices on all the shields are exceedingly well preserved, and are as capable of being interpreted now as ever.

The building is composed of two tiers, or stages, raised on a platform of three octagonal steps. The plan throughout is square, the four buttresses at the angles of the lower stage being connected by groining-ribs, ornamented with sculptured bosses, some of which represent oak-leaves and acorns, to the capital, still pendent from the roof, of what was once an eight-sided central shaft, a portion of whose pedestal still remains inserted in the floor. The arched

spaces on three sides of this stage are divided by a transom, the upper division being completed by an elliptical arch of very graceful proportions, and the lower by pairs of five-centered arches, with bold mouldings and perfectly plain cuspings. The perpendiculars between these arches are destroyed, but the foot of each is left projecting from the sill. On the south side the whole of the arched space is open, nor is there the slightest trace of any division ever having been made. The outer ogee line of each arch is crocketed, and terminates in a finial. The spandrel space thus formed between the outer and inner mouldings is filled in by a well-executed carving of oak-leaves in trefoil. It is evident, from the general design, that the outer buttresses once terminated in pinnacles.

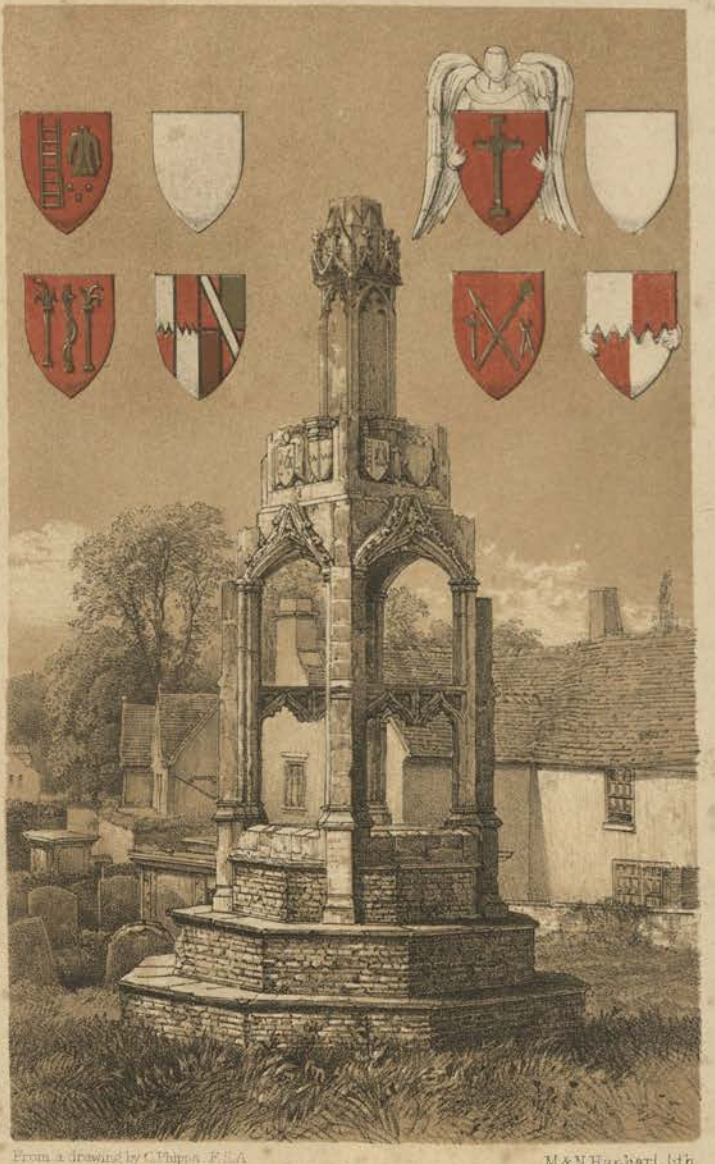
The second stage is formed by a square block of masonry, resting on the crown of the vault, into which is inserted a four-sided shaft, niched on its facings, and crowned by elaborately-carved three-arched canopies, with mouldings and finials; the pedestals to these niches, in the form of brackets, project from each side of the square. Two or three circular drill-holes in the pillar lead to the inference that sculptured figures were formerly placed there. This basement of the second stage is ornamented on its sides by eight shields, each shield being encompassed by a pair of long drooping wings, which originally sprang, as may be seen in the only one that is perfect, from the shoulders of a figure like that of a priest, attired in an alb, whose hands clasp and support the shield. This symbolic representation of the priesthood, wherein the priest is exalted to the divine character of a 'ministering spirit,' is so unusual in this style

of sculpture, that it may be doubted if angels are not meant instead, especially as in some old sculptures the alb is worn by them. The outline, and figure generally, and particularly the remains of a tonsure, are so well marked, however, that I believe I am not incorrect in supposing it to be that of a priest. Into the top of the shaft, and finished by broaches, is inserted the base of an octagonal column, which might have been some 6 or 8 ft. higher, and this again surmounted by a finial and iron cross, to complete the harmony of proportion of the whole. The present actual measurement of the Cross is as follows:—

Extreme width at Base	Base line to Floor of Arch	From Floor to Crown of Arch	Width of Arch	From Base of Second Tier to top of Canopy	Size of Shields	Square Block Base of Second Tier	Top Pillar	Total Height from Ground
ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft in.	in.	ft. in. ft.	ft. in. in.	ft. in.
10 9	4 6	6 4	2 11	6 3	11×8	3 2×2	3 2×16	19 2

The total height of the original building to the summit of the iron cross would thus be about 30 ft.

Of the shields already alluded to, one on the north side and one on the south are armorial, and have their devices *incised*. The insignia on the others do not consist of 'mechanical instruments, such as hatchets,' &c., as Garter erroneously supposed, but are simply the very significant and Catholic Emblems of the Passion, beautifully carved in relief. Two of the shields are blank, never having been touched by the chisel. Although neither armorial nor truly heraldic, the four shields containing the Emblems of the Passion admit of being described in heraldic terms. As they are not depicted in colours, taste alone can guide



From a drawing by C.Phipps F.S.A. M&N Hanhart lith

PREACHING CROSS AT IRON ACTON.

us in this respect. It seems proper that the field should in all these cases be *Gules,* in allusion to the outpouring of the Blood, and the Emblems *Gold,* in allusion to the Golden Fruits of the Lord's Passion. The relative position of the shields on the Cross, and their respective emblazonments, would then be as follows :—

EAST SIDE—Two Shields. One shield blank; the other charged. On the dexter side a Ladder erect, and on the sinister, a Man's Vest in chief, and three Dice (two and one) in base.

WEST SIDE—Two Shields. One shield blank; the other charged with: A Passion Cross, surmounted at its centre by a Crown of Thorns; above it an Escroll, and at each extremity of the transverse beam, and at the foot, a Passion Nail.

NORTH SIDE—Two Shields. One bearing a Coat of Arms; the other having:—In the centre a Pillar* in the form of a Cross, between two Knotted Scourges with handles erect.

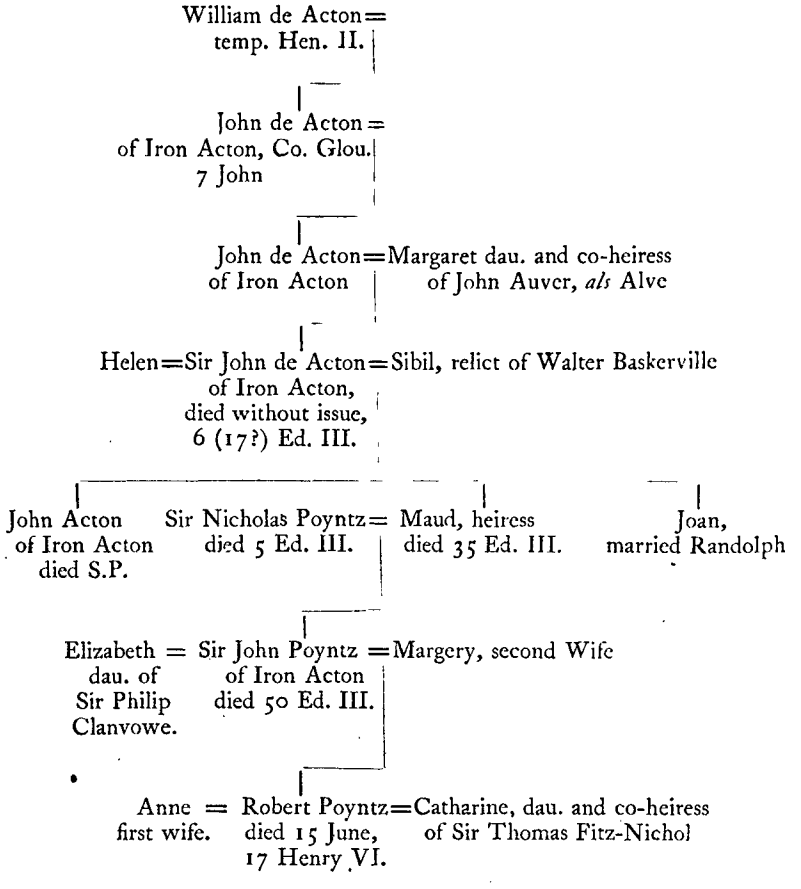
SOUTH SIDE—Two Shields. One bearing a Coat of Arms; the other charged with :— A Spear, and Staff tipped with a Sponge in saltire, between on the dexter side, a Hammer, and on the sinister, a Pair of Pincers.

The Emblems of the Passion thus depicted, though not uncommon in this country, are frequently met with *in partibus transmarinis.* As to the two *incised* shields with armorial bearings, which Garter affirmed were obliterated, it is plain they consist respectively of a Coat of Arms, and the same coat and another empaled. It will be remem-

* The pillar against which our Saviour was scourged, and which, it is said, is still to be seen in the Church of S. Procrustus, at Rome.

bered that the first Lords of the Manor were the Actons, and at the decease of Sir John de Acton, 17 Edw. III. (A.D. 1344), the line of the Actons became extinct. This date would not only be too early for the Cross, but there is no marriage in the Acton family to answer for the empaled coat.

The following manorial Pedigree of the Actons, extracted from the Register of the College of Arms, will elucidate this more clearly :—


William de Acton= temp. Hen. II.
John de Acton = of Iron Acton, Co. Glou. 7 John
John de Acton= of Iron Acton
Margaret dau. and co-heiress of John Auver, als Alve
Helen=Sir John de Acton= of Iron Acton, died without issue, 6 (17?) Ed. III.
Sibil, relict of Walter Baskerville
John Acton of Iron Acton died S.P.
Sir Nicholas Poyntz= died 5 Ed. III.
Maud, heiress died 35 Ed. III.
Joan, married Randolph
Elizabeth = dau. of Sir Philip Clanvowe.
Sir John Poyntz = of Iron Acton died 50 Ed. III.
Margery, second Wife
Anne = first wife.
Robert Poyntz= died 15 June, 17 Henry VI.
Catharine, dau. and co-heiress of Sir Thomas Fitz-Nichol

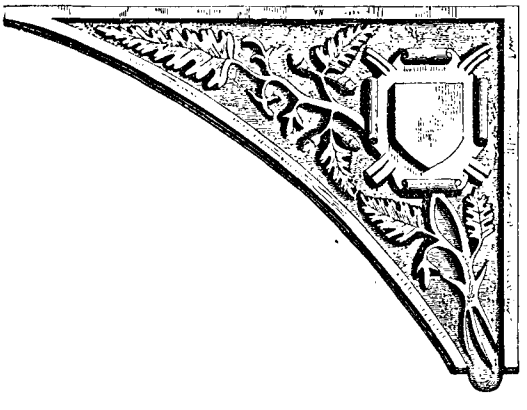
On the extinction of the direct line of the Actons, the manor afterwards descended to Sir John Poyntz, son of

Nicholas Poyntz, who married Maud, next of kin and heiress of Sir John de Acton. Sir John Poyntz, who was heir of the last of the Actons, lived till the 50th Edw. III. (A.D. 1377), and then died, leaving his son, Robert Poyntz, his heir, who lived till the 15th June, 17 Hen. VI. (1439), having married as his second wife, Catharine, daughter and co-heiress of Sir Thomas Fitz-Nichol, by whom he had a son and heir. These are clearly the two individuals to whom the shields refer.

The arms of the Actons are, Quarterly per fesse dancetté, *Argent* and *Gules*. Those of Fitz-Nichol:—Quarterly *Gules* and *Or*, a bend *Argent*. And these arms exactly correspond to those on the shields. Thus one shield bears the arms of Acton only, or, more correctly, of Poyntz, *as the Lord of the Manor of Iron Acton*; and the other shield carries the same arms, empaling those of Fitz-Nichol. Using the arms of his grandmother Acton, through whom he inherited the manor of Iron Acton, instead of his paternal coat of Poyntz, would be a very probable thing for Robert Poyntz to do, for such a purpose, and in such a situation, even if he did not adopt the Acton arms altogether, which he very likely may have done. There can be no doubt, then, in the conclusion, that these *incised* shields are for the Lord of the Manor and his wife, as above stated, *at the period of the erection of the Cross*; which date closely corresponds to that assigned to it by Lysons and Bigland, and is also verified by the style of architecture.

The name of Acton, as we have seen, was associated with the manor at a very remote date, and it is more than

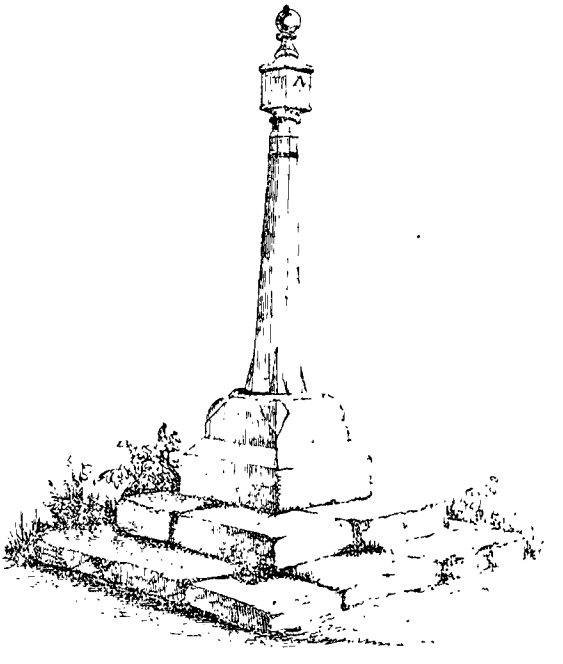
likely, in accordance with ancient usage, the manor took its name from the family, and not the family from the manor. As no crest is recorded for Acton of Iron Acton, the male line having become extinct so early, it probably passed into oblivion with the last male Acton. Still, considering the fact that oak-leaves are conspicuously carved in the spandrel spaces of the arches of the Cross, and in the bosses of the groining-ribs,—(I found them also enriching the spandrels of an old gateway leading to the quadrangle of Acton Court, where an oak branch with acorns supports a shield (see woodcut), too defaced to admit of any device being distinguished on it), I am inclined to the opinion that the crest of the Actons was an oak, which would exemplify the name, and be thus perpetuated in the manor. As to the Cross itself, there is no discordant line or debasing style in it, and its proportions and ornamentation are singularly harmonious. As a specimen of the early 'Preaching Crosses' it is unique. A fine effect must have been produced by a fervid ecclesiastic exhorting a multitude from such a pulpit.



SPANDREL OF GATEWAY AT ACTON COURT.

WELFORD.—Deeply embedded in the ground in the churchyard is a square stone, evidently the socket of a Cross; but it is so much damaged that no details can be made out respecting it.

CHARLTON KINGS.—There is an unusually fine Cross in the churchyard. The socket is mounted on two steps, measuring 7 ft. 1 in. and 4 ft. 7 in. square respectively, is of massive proportions, and well calculated to support the large tapering octagonal shaft, 7 ft. 1 in. in height, which is fixed into it. The upper face of the socket is octagonal, but deep broaches bring the course to a square, and then a broad chamfer enlarges the lower bed. The shaft has a square block, surmounted by a ball, both of modern construction. An iron collar encircles it near the top at the spot where the stone has been broken. A third step is just visible, embedded in the earth. Late fifteenth century.

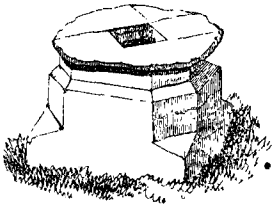


CHARLTON KINGS.

S. BRIAVEL'S.—There was formerly a Cross in the

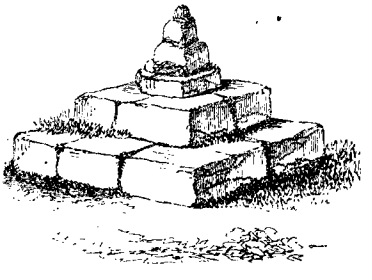
churchyard near the south porch, but it was removed in the year 1830, when the new tower was built.

WESTON-ON-AVON.—A fine old socket in the churchyard. The upper bed is an irregular octagon, with a drip; the lower bed is enlarged by a cant, and the alternate and smaller sides are reduced to a square by foot broaches of flat outline. There is a mortise in the upper face for the shaft. Fourteenth century.



WESTON-ON-AVON.

MAISEMORE.—A churchyard Cross on the south side of the church. Two steps are tolerably perfect, but the socket and stump end of the shaft are crumbling away. The ground has been so raised by the accumulation of soil, as to cover the basement step, which is here and there visible. The steps measure 5 ft. 4 in. and 4 ft. square.



MAISEMORE.

A curious Cross once stood on old Maisemore bridge. It bore the following bilingual inscription:—

In honore D'ni nri Ihu Cristi qui nobis crucifixus erat.

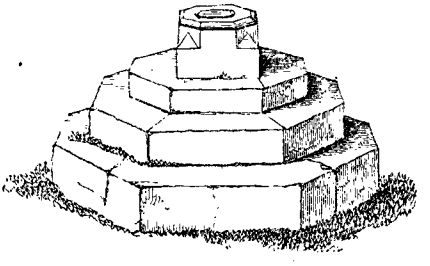
And underneath, in old Norman French:—

Ceosie Croz fist Willm fiz Anketill de Lilton, et riseoli Willm fiz Anketill comenza de pont de Mazemore.

Which, being interpreted, reads thus: '*For the honour of*

our Lord Jesus Christ, who was crucified for us, William the son of Anketill began the bridge of Maisemore.'

ABBOT'S LEIGH.—On the north side of the church are the steps and socket of a churchyard Cross. The shaft disappeared a few years ago. The steps are three in number, and eight-sided, measuring respectively 4 ft. 2 in., 3 ft. 4 in., and 1 ft. 10 in. on each face. The lower step is plain without any drip. The socket is an irregular octagon in its upper bed, brought to an oblong square in its lower by sharp broaches. The mortise is oblong, intended for the reception of a flattened shaft. Fifteenth century.



ABBOT'S LEIGH.

NETHER SWELL.—There is a socket in the churchyard, but much dilapidated. It is said to have formed the chair in which the Bishop sat when he consecrated the church; but this is explained by the chair-like appearance, caused by two of its sides being destroyed.

NETHER SWELL.

ASHELWORTH.—A village Cross, the steps of which are still standing on the Green. The head was discovered some years ago on taking down the chimney stack of a neighbouring cottage, forming the foundation stone of the hearth, and is now in the possession of Mr. Taylor, who

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has carefully removed the dirt and soot which covered it. The stone measures 20 in. in length, 15½ in. in width, and 10½ in. in thickness. Four richly decorated niches ornament its sides, and enclose the following subjects, carved in relief:—On the front face, a rood with Mary and John, one on each side. The hair of these figures is parted, and turned in curls over the temples; S. John carries a book in his right hand; his left arm is bent to support the head, which is inclined on the hand. Mary holds a box in her right hand, and grasps the folds of her dress with the left. The form of a cross is visible, delicately traced in five dots on each breast. In the figure of the Saviour the fingers are half clenched over the hidden nails which pierce the palm. A crown of thorns encircles the brows, and allows the long hair to escape from beneath.

The opposite side of the stone having been injured the figures are less distinct, but they can be easily recognised as those of the Virgin and Child, and a young-looking woman kneeling in the act of adoration. It is worthy of notice how well the artist has modified the exact form of the trefoil heads to accommodate them to the full display of their respective subjects. In the niche in which the Crucifixion is represented the cusps are plain, but, in that of the Virgin and Child the lower cusps are larger, and ornamented with bosses. The side niches also contain figures; but one of them is so much defaced by fire that it is impossible, merely from the few folds of drapery which can be distinguished, to do more than surmise for whom it is intended. In the other niche is carved a venerable-looking personage, habited as an apostle, with a fine head and beard, and with a book in his

C.P. delv

M. & N. Hanfstaengl Munich

ASHELWORTH

left hand; while, kneeling at his feet, with the hands palm to palm, in the attitude of supplication, is a figure dressed in a short kilt, with a belt round his waist. It will be remarked, however, that the head is unnatural, being none other than that of a sheep, from whose mouth extends an arm bent at the elbow, and terminating in an unwieldy hand, holding up something in the shape of a round ball, or some sort of fruit, to the other figure, whose head is slightly turned towards it.

In accordance with the custom observed in respect to the sculptures on the head of the Cross of Amney Holy-Rood, of making these monuments historical, it seems almost conclusive that the old man figured in this compartment is intended to represent no less eminent a person than the tutelary saint of the Abbey that held Ashelworth, which was that of S. Augustine of Bristol, to which Robert Fitzharding, the first Earl of Berkeley, who founded the monastery, gave this manor and church. But it may fairly be questioned whether the artist who designed the sculpture has not confounded S. Augustine, the Prior of the Convent on the Cœlian Hill, and first Archbishop of Canterbury, with S. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, to whom the Abbey was dedicated. The labours of S. Augustine in England, A.D. 597, are well known to have been especially directed to the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons to the Christian faith; and Pope Gregory the Great, who, before his elevation to the Chair of S. Peter, had himself projected this mission to Britain, supported S. Augustine with all the influence of his authority and advice. History records that no means were left unemployed which pious zeal and worldly policy could dictate to effect this purpose; indeed, many

things were then done to win disciples which would not be tolerated even by the extreme doctrine of expediency in this age of Christianity. Whatever the exact state of religious worship may have been at this time in Britain, it is certain that S. Augustine's mission was eminently successful, since he is said to have baptised 10,000 persons of both sexes in the river Swale, in one day. But the great glory which crowned his efforts was the conversion and baptism of Ethelbert, the Pagan King of Kent, only a few months before. S. Augustine may be thus looked upon as the Apostle, of all others, who overthrew Pagan worship in England, and whose works and miracles would be far more likely to be known than the more recondite labours of the African Bishop, which were, moreover, two hundred years earlier in date.

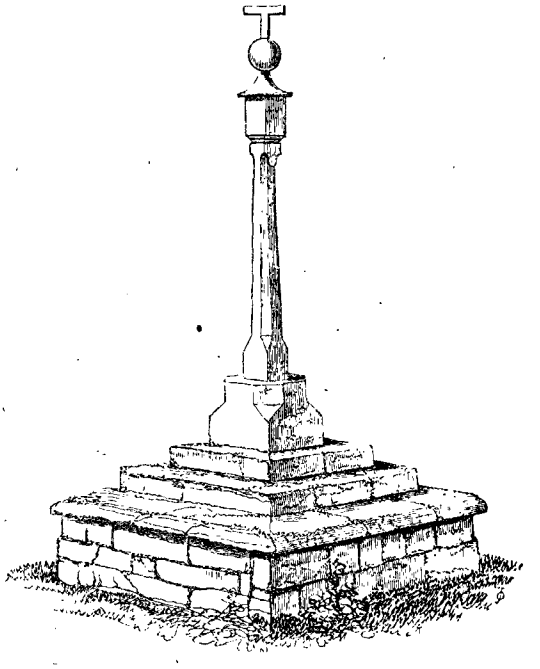
Assuming, then, the artist to have been mistaken as to the Apostle, may not this be his method of conveying what he conceived to be the incarnation of Paganism, symbolised under this figure kneeling and supplicating at the feet of the Saint; and could he have better typified the overthrow of idolatry by S. Augustine, that it might remain in perpetual remembrance? There are no circumstances in the life of the Bishop of Hippo which would apply so well to the elucidation of the subject.

If we adopt with Mr. Lysons, as the etymon to Ashelworth אשל, *Ashel*, a *grove*, or *sacred place*, it would point to the idolatrous nature of the worship that may once have flourished even at this spot, and thus give a colourable ground for the sculpture.

Referring to the other compartment, which is so injured, it is not inconsistent with the view we have entertained of

the history of the Cross, to conclude that the figure is that of Robert Fitzharding, who, after having enjoyed all the honours and pleasures of the world, became a Canon in the monastery he had founded, and died therein, A.D. 1170, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. Fourteenth century.

STANTON.—A modernised village Cross. On three steps, measuring 7 ft. 7 in., 5 ft., and 3 ft. 9 in. square respectively, is placed an octagonal plinth, brought to a square below by broaches of flat outline, into which is mortised a chamfered octagonal pillar, 9 ft. high. A square block caps this shaft, and supports an unmeaning ball, and *crux commissa*. The lower features only are old.

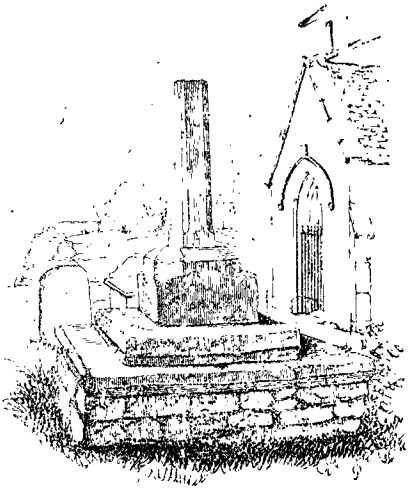


STANTON.

EBRINGTON.—A Cross was formerly erected in this village. The stone forming the socket is now used as a cheese-press in a neighbouring farm-house.

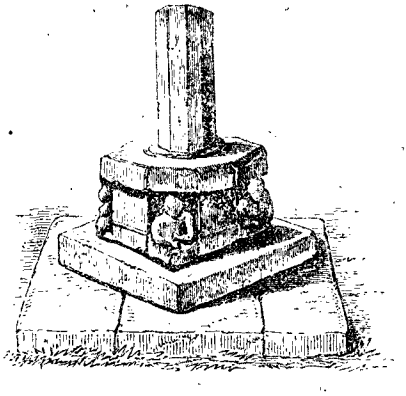
WINSTONE.—A churchyard Cross, to the east of the south porch of the church. A basement step of good

masonry, supports a platform of stones, on which is set the socket and part of the shaft. The shaft, which is octagonal, but worn almost round by exposure to the weather, is very solid, and brought to a square by four deeply chiselled broaches. The socket, like that of Sapperton Cross, has its upper stage octagonal and grooved, and its lower worked to a square by broaches, which, even at this period of time, retain traces of sculptured ornamentation. The whole structure is very old and picturesque. Probably, early fourteenth century work.

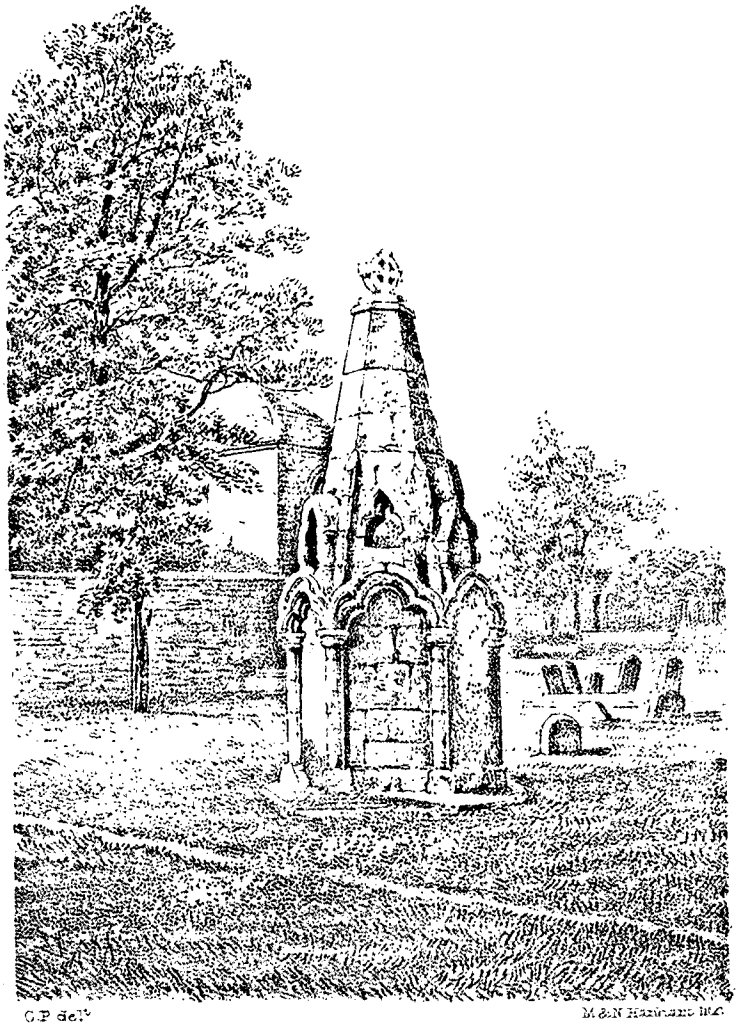


WINSTONE.

DIDMARTON.—A small but unusually handsome Cross in the churchyard. It is commonly called 'The Preaching Stone.' Into an octagonal socket, only 16 in. in height, and 31 in. in diameter, is mortised with lead about 3 ft. of an irregular octagonal shaft. On the alternate faces of the socket, and serving as broaches to bring the base to a square, four half figures are sculptured in high relief, which are sup-



DIDMARTON.



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M & N Hanhart lith.

BISLEY CROSS.

posed to represent the four Evangelists. I think one, however, may be intended for S. Lawrence, to whom the church is dedicated; but the stone is so weather-worn that it is impossible to discover any symbols by which to indicate the subject. When the present incumbent, the Rev. E. J. Everard, came to the parish, twenty-six years ago, the whole of the base and part of the shaft were invisible, from the accumulation of earth. Having disinterred the whole, he had the Cross raised on two steps of stone set diagonally, so that the ancient part of the Cross ends with the basement figures. Fourteenth century.

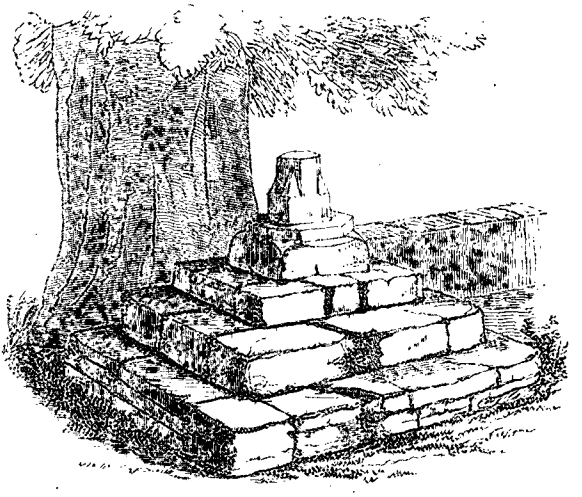
BISLEY.—This remarkable Cross stands at the west end of Bisley Churchyard, where it forms a somewhat striking object, and may be easily mistaken for a handsome sepulchral monument. Mr. Lysons has figured it as a Cross of the thirteenth century.

The building is composed of a circular basement, on which is erected an upright hollow hexagon, formed by six three-centred arches, supported on rounded columns, with beaded capitals and square plinths. On this tier rises a hexagonal pyramid, built on a corresponding number of smaller arches, with very deep mouldings. A thick fillet runs halfway up the pyramid at each angle, and is terminated by an abrupt bevel. The small Cross on the top is of modern date, and is out of keeping with the rest of the building. Its place was formerly occupied by an equally incongruous object, namely, the baptismal font, which now stands in the church. The elevation of the whole building from the ground line to the apex is about 12 ft.

As the plan of construction differs so wholly from that of other Crosses, it has been doubted whether the structure was ever meant for a Cross at all. The country people in the neighbourhood have nicknamed it 'The Bone House,' and say that it leads by a subterranean passage to the interior of the church. Some archæologists see in it an example of an isolated campanile, but there is no vestige of a stanchion or fixing of any sort visible. There is a traditional belief that some one was drowned in a well in the churchyard, and that the well was ordered to be closed, and this building erected over the spot. This is mere conjecture. The truth more probably is, that formerly a spring, since dried up, rose there, which, according to custom, was protected from pollution by the erection of this building over it, and at the same time consecrated by having a Cross fixed on the top. The circumstance of the baptismal font having been placed there would lead to the supposition that at one time it was used in that situation for baptismal purposes, and perhaps water was obtained from the clear spring below. As a relic of the thirteenth century, this Cross is one of much interest.

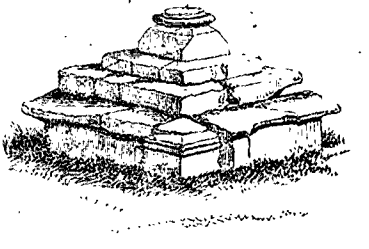
HATHEROP.—The steps, socket, and part of the shaft of a venerable Cross are situated close to some houses adjoining the turnpike-road, and under the shadow of a majestic elm, 16 ft. 3½ in. in girth, three feet from the ground. The Cross was formerly open to the road, but is now enclosed by a wall. The three steps measure respectively 8 ft. 6 in., 6 ft. 6 in., and 4 ft. 6½ in. square. The socket is octagonal above, with broaches at the angles. The

stump is part of an octagonal shaft, squared by broaches, and fixed with lead into the socket. Late fourteenth century.



HATHEROP.

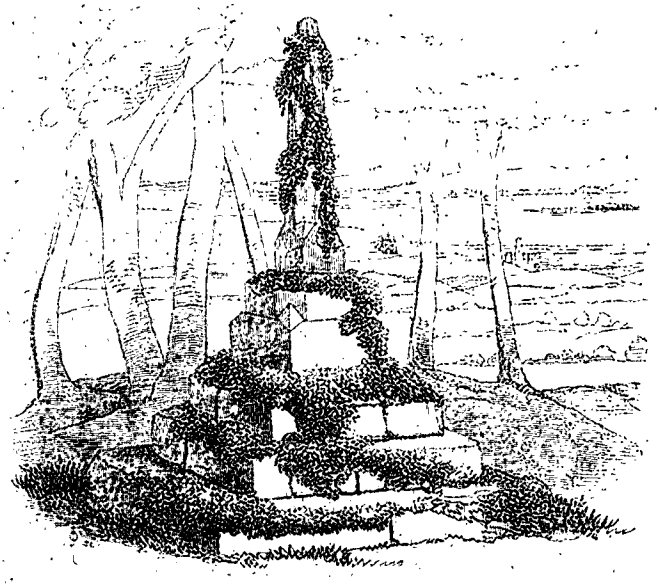
KELMSCOTT.—A village Cross, much dilapidated. Three steps remain, measuring respectively 6 ft. 8 in., 5 ft. 1 in., and 4 ft. square, on which is set the socket, formed of a square block, having circular dressings on its upper surface, and chamfers at the angles. The lower bench is laid with a deep drip moulding. The total height is 5 ft. 6 in. Fourteenth century.



KELMSCOTT.

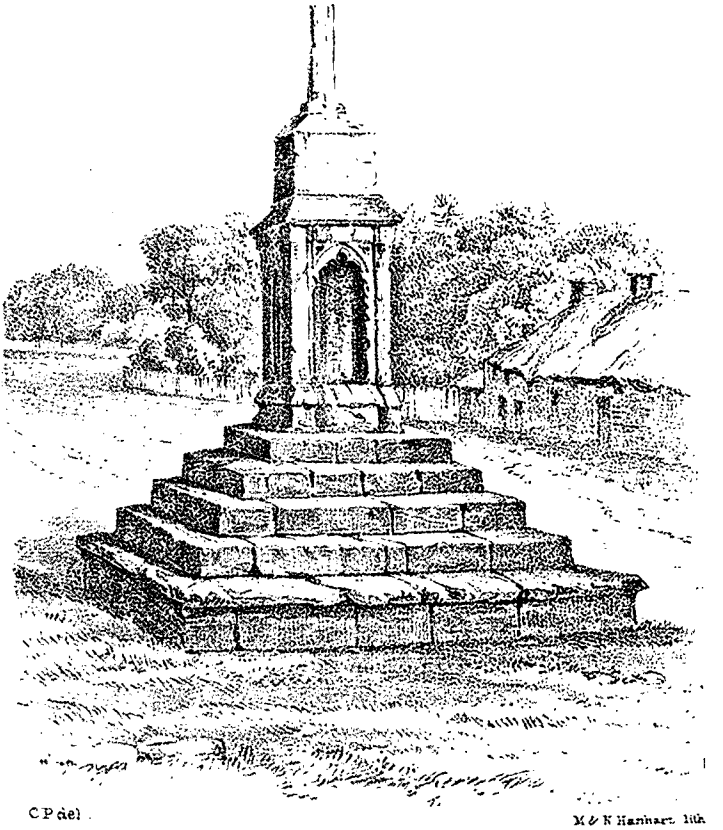
KING'S WESTON.—A very noted Cross, called Bewy's Cross, formerly stood in this parish near the Severn, and was held in high estimation by sailors, who paid their devotions to it on landing. The Cross, which stands in

the garden in the rear of King's Weston House, and in a line with the cliff, is said to be the veritable 'Sailors' Cross.' It has a curiously worked hole in the upper step, which tradition says is the place wherein they deposited their offerings. The three steps measure respectively 7 ft. 6 in., 5 ft. 7 in., and 4 ft. 2 in. square. The shaft is a tapering octagon,



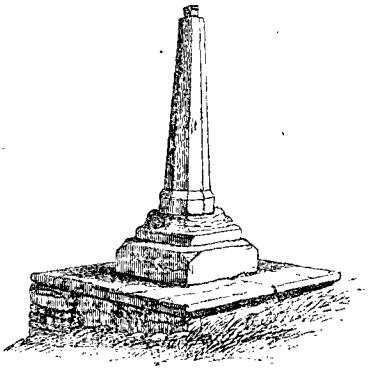
KING'S WESTON.

squared at its foot by broaches, and fits into a deep mortise, cut in the solid socket, whose upper bed is wrought into a square lower bed, by broaches of convex outline at the angles. The total height is about 9 ft. It is covered with ivy, and bears the impress of early fifteenth century work. A few years since, in digging the ground near the Cross, the workmen came upon the foundations of a chapel; but I have been unable to ascertain to what Saint it was dedicated.



CLEARWELL CROSS.

SAPPERTON.—A churchyard Cross under the shadow of a fine old yew. A single bench of masonry, 6 ft. square, supports a socket 2 ft. 9 in. square at base, with circular dressings in its upper bed, and chamfered angles, into which is fixed an octagonal tapering shaft 5 ft. 5 in. in height, having a tenon on the top for inserting into the head. Late fifteenth century.



SAPPERTON.

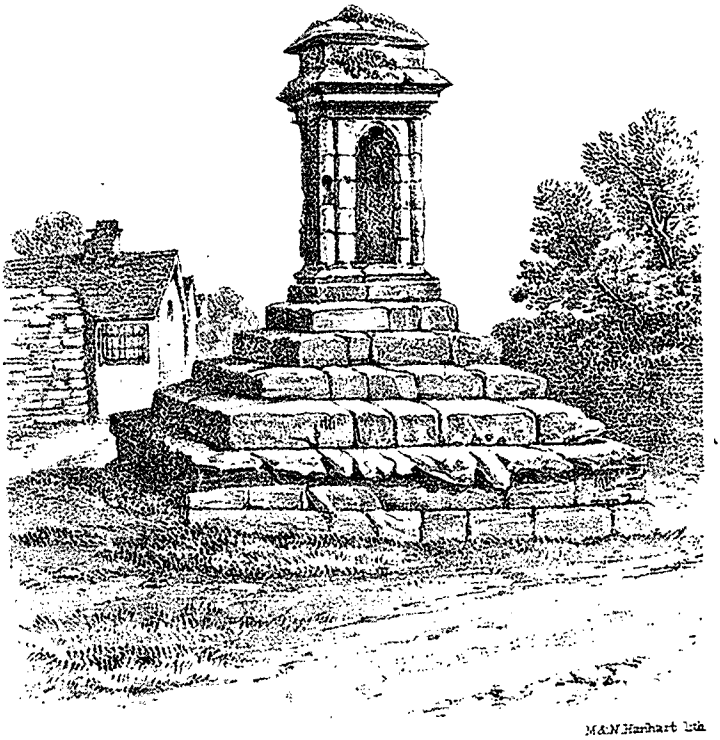
CLEARWELL—AYLBURTON—LYDNEY.—These Crosses belong to the early part of the fourteenth century; and it is to be regretted that no clue can be found to their history.

Ecclesiastical architecture had at this date already undergone a transition, the semicircular having given place to the pointed arch, but the art had not yet attained to that more perfect or florid development of decoration found in works of a later date. And thus it is, that while in one of these (Clearwell) the attempt is made to follow the rule of early Gothic throughout, the span of the arches being supported by well-proportioned angle shafts, with caps and bases, the spandrels carved, the arches trefoil-headed with double cuspings, and the mouldings in unison with the style; in Aylburton there is a capriciousness in the style, a union of the Classical with the Christian: the vigorous, deep, horizontal mouldings contrasting strongly with the timidly executed featherings of the Gothic arch, and blank spandrels, while the butments

and facing of the work are of Doric simplicity. And may not this discrepancy even point to different architects: Aylburton, representing that mixed style, the product possibly of an Italian artist, who, familiar enough with the classic forms of his own country, was not so confident in his knowledge of Gothic lines as to permit him to do more than make an effort to imitate in the arch the leading features of its construction; and Clearwell, illustrating the work of a more accomplished hand, one acquainted with the theory and practical development of early Gothic; for, be it remembered, at this period, and long before, it was the custom to bring over foreign architects, or *master masons*, as they were termed, as well as workmen, and these people were much employed in the service of the Church?

These Crosses are all built of the same grey forest stone, and consist of a sort of square shrine, having a niche, once probably containing sculptured figures, uncanopied, in each of their four sides. This building, which forms the pedestal to the Cross, is placed on the summit of a flight of steps, called, in the language of ecclesiastical analogy, the *Calvary*. Of these steps and pedestals the following are the comparative dimensions:—

	Extreme width at Base	No. of Steps	Height of Top Step from Ground	Height of Pedestal of Cross only	Width of Base of Pedestal	Total Height from Ground
	ft. in.		ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.	ft. in.
Lydney . . .	24 3	8	8 6½	8 7	5 3	17 1½
Aylburton . .	14 2	5	6 10	9 2	3 9	16 0
Clearwell . .	14 11	5	5 4	7 6	2 8	15 3



C.P. del.

M&N Hanhart lith.

AYLBURTON CROSS.

On the top of Clearwell pedestal is a block of squared masonry, in which is inserted the remains of the shaft. The baldness of this block mars the outline of the whole, and conveys the impression that the original, which was doubtless designed in accordance with the same style of architecture as the pedestal, has been broken down, and this put up as a substitute. Since the drawing was taken from which this plate is engraved, an attempt has been made to supply the deficiency in the shaft by clumsily grafting on the stump a supplementary piece of stone, and this again surmounted by a cock with a bright red comb and wattles.

This stone had been selected and prepared for the purpose by a respectable inhabitant, named Yarworth, more than twenty years previously. The good taste, however, of Caroline, Countess of Dunraven, who has done so much for the village, has led to the removal of this incongruity, and at her expense the Cross has been restored in a style more in harmony with that which prevailed at the period of its erection. It is gratifying to find that the architect, fearing to carry the work of restoration too far, has most wisely contented himself with doing as little as possible to the structure itself, thus preserving unaltered the original character of the work. The only parts that have been touched are one of the angle-shafts, which was much decayed, and has since been remodelled out of Yarworth's monolith, for which purpose the stone was well suited, and the piece of the old shaft, which has been carefully copied and lengthened, and ornamented with a simple but elegant

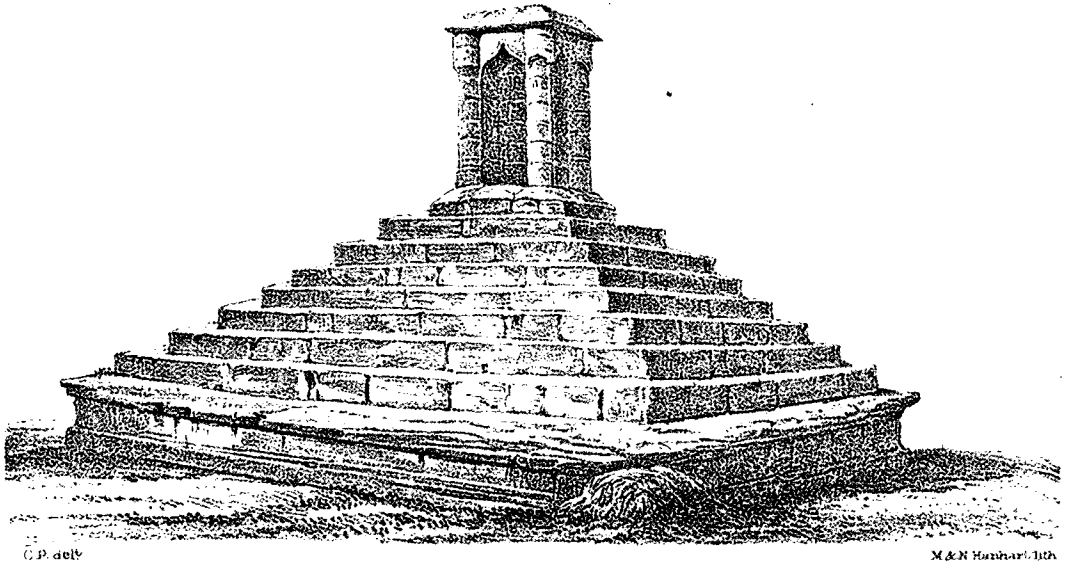
floriated Cross as a finial.* The total height from the ground to the top of the Cross is 20 ft.

In Aylburton Cross, which was repaired about A.D. 1841, the plinth, or socket, at the top of the pedestal, is ornamented with a drip moulding, which gives a finish to the proportions of this member of the building, and a finer and more harmonious effect than is produced by the bald block of Clearwell.

Of Lydney Cross there is not much to be said. The size and loftiness of the steps are sufficient to show what a handsome and imposing structure it once was, and how it must have towered above all around it. I happened to visit this Cross soon after it had been mended, when the mortar was fresh in the joints, and the scraping and chiselling had left a clean surface behind. The principal mischief may have been done earlier; but a glance at the plate, which is a *fac simile* of a photograph taken at the time, will convey to the reader, far better than words, an idea of the aspect it then had, which is in no respect calculated to exalt our ideas of the 'Transition Decorated,' if, in its present condition, the Cross is to be considered, as it is by some, a specimen of that style.

It was a common custom to decorate the capitals of Crosses with sculpture, or with canopied niches, containing figures—the Cross proper, usually of iron, surmounting the whole. Not only high Crosses, but way-side, and even churchyard Crosses, and slender monoliths of ten or twelve

* Restored from the design of John Middleton, Esq., Architect.



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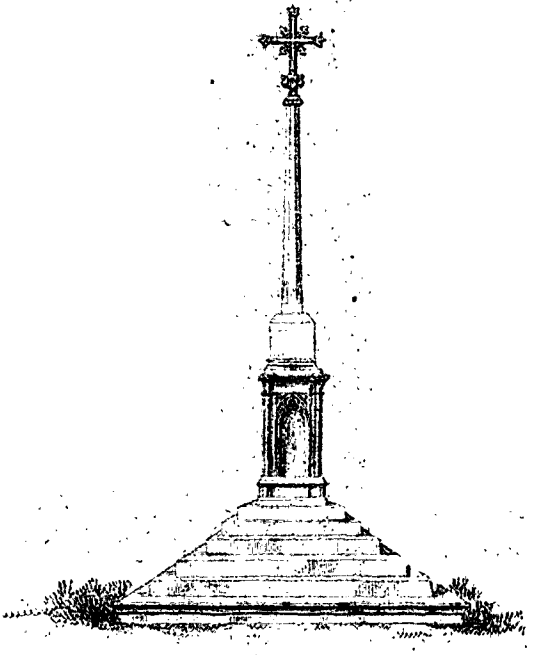
M & N Hanhart lith.

LYDNEY CROSS.

feet in length, and of hard stone, were thus ornamented; and from the size of the shaft it is not improbable that these were similarly crowned.

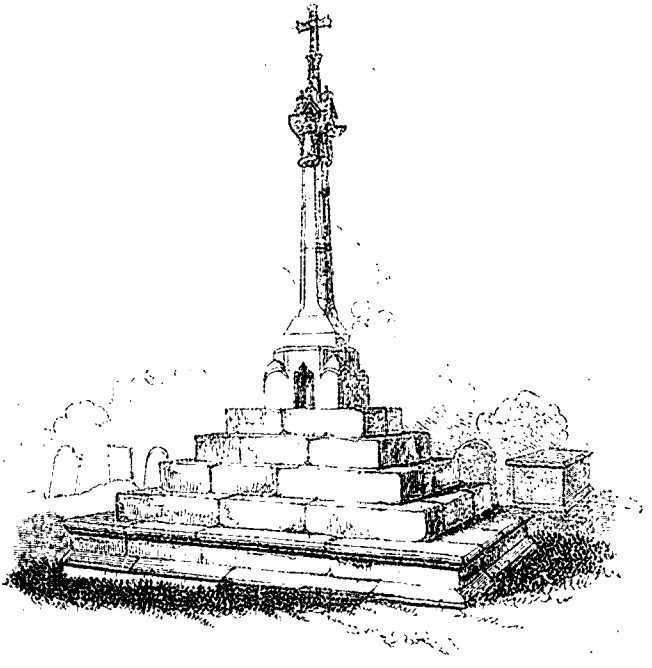


CLEARWELL CROSS (RESTORED).

LECHLADE.—An old Cross formerly stood in the Market-place.

NEWLAND.—This is a restored Cross. All that remained of the old Cross, a work of the fourteenth century, consisted of five steps, and the massive socket into which the shaft was formerly fixed, but which, after its disappearance, had been replaced by a shorter stone, having the lines of the customary sun-dial marked upon it. Two points are worthy of notice in the base, namely, the broaches of convex outline by which the oblique sides of the upper octagon are brought into the lower square; and the sculptured niche

ornamented with an ogee trefoiled head, in the east face. The niche was probably used as a Reliquary, or as a receptacle for the Pix, on the occasion of Divine Service being celebrated there.



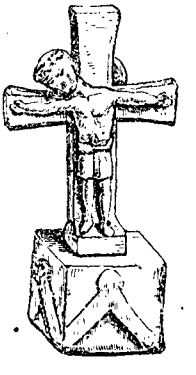
NEWLAND CROSS (RESTORED).

In the work of reconstruction it was found necessary to take down the whole of the steps, which had sunk, and become almost a ruin. The stones were carefully marked and reset in their old relative positions, great care being taken not to disturb the weather staining on their surface. But the base was too much injured to be retained as the base of a new Cross, and was therefore accurately copied in sound stone. The old base was put together as well as the condition of its material allowed, and now stands in the churchyard hard by the Cross.

The new Cross, which is placed upon the substructure,

consists of three stages: the lowest is a tapering irregular octagon shaft, which is tenoned into a mortise in the top of the base; the next is formed by four canopied niches, facing the four cardinal points, and containing each the sculptured figure of an angel, with outspread wings and bearing a crown; the third and uppermost is a Cross decorated on each side with flat surface carving of foliage, and crocketed at the junction of the lower limb with its pedestal. The height of the whole from the ground to the top of the Cross is 20 ft. Round the shaft runs the following inscription: 'This Cross was restored in memory of Margaret Birt, A.D. 1864.'*

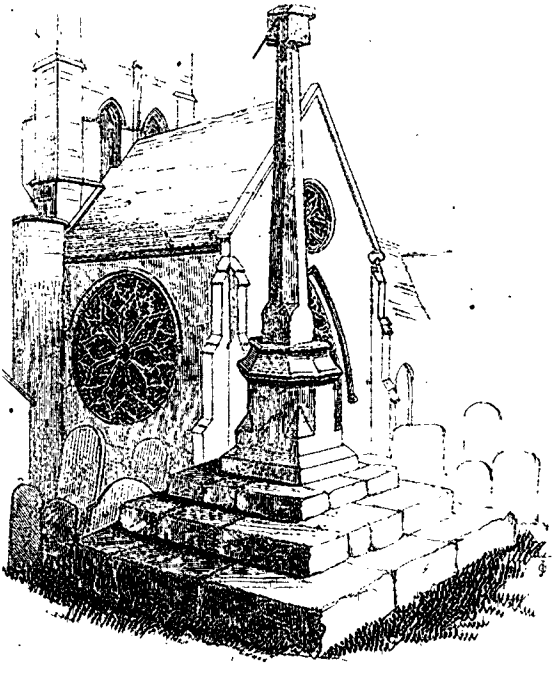
MICKLETON.—An interesting relic, in the shape of an old Cross, is preserved in the Vicarage garden. It was found in the churchyard some years ago, during the incumbency of the Rev. Mr. Hadow. Mounted on a square piece of modern masonry is a crucifix carved in stone, 24 in. high, having a transom of 18 in. The Saviour is sculptured in full relief; the head, crowned with thorns, is thrown to the right side; the body is naked to the waist, but the loins are wrapped round with the folds of a skirt; the legs are asunder, with the toes turned rather out. The face is thin, and the features are scarcely to be distinguished. Four nails being used to fasten the body to the Cross denotes it as the work of the eleventh or twelfth century. The same figure is carved on the other side.



MICKLETON.

* Restored from the design of J. Graham Jackson, M.A., Architect.

S. MARY'S, CHELTENHAM.—A fine old Cross stands at the north-east angle of the church. The shaft is an irregular octagon, 8 ft. high, inserted into an irregular octagonal socket mounted on three steps, measuring respec-

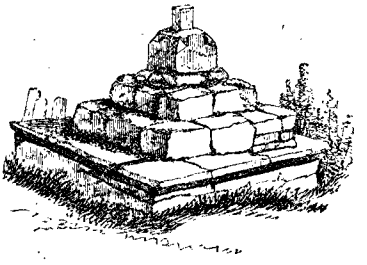


S. MARY'S, CHELTENHAM.

tively 9 ft. 6 in., 7 ft. 6 in., and 5 ft. square. A square block, part of the original Cross, formerly surmounted the shaft, on which, in its perfect state, carved figures were probably fixed. After the destruction of the capital the block was utilised by the usual method of fixing a dial thereto. Later innovations have ended in the removal of the dial, and the substitution of an unmeaning four-gabled capping, which now crowns the shaft, and has the very decided effect of obliterating the last vestige of any likeness to a Cross. It is thought that this Cross is as old as Edward I., but the

thirteenth century appears too early. It probably belongs to the later date of the fourteenth.

RENDCOMBE.—Three steps, the socket, and about a foot of the octagonal shaft, are the only parts that are left of this Cross. These ruins stand nearly opposite the south porch of the church.



RENDCOMBE.

TEDDINGTON.—A handpost, having six hands at the extremities of as many directing arms, marks the spot at the cross-roads where a Cross formerly stood. The antiquity of the handpost is vouched for by the following doggrel painted on the stone:—

EDMUND ATTWOOD OF THE VINE TREE
AT THE FIRST TIME ERECTED ME,
AND FREELY HE DID THIS BESTOW
STRANGE TRAVELLERS THE WAY TO SHOW.

EIGHT GENERATIONS PASSED AND GONE,
REPAIRED BY EDMUND ATTWOOD OF TEDINGTON.

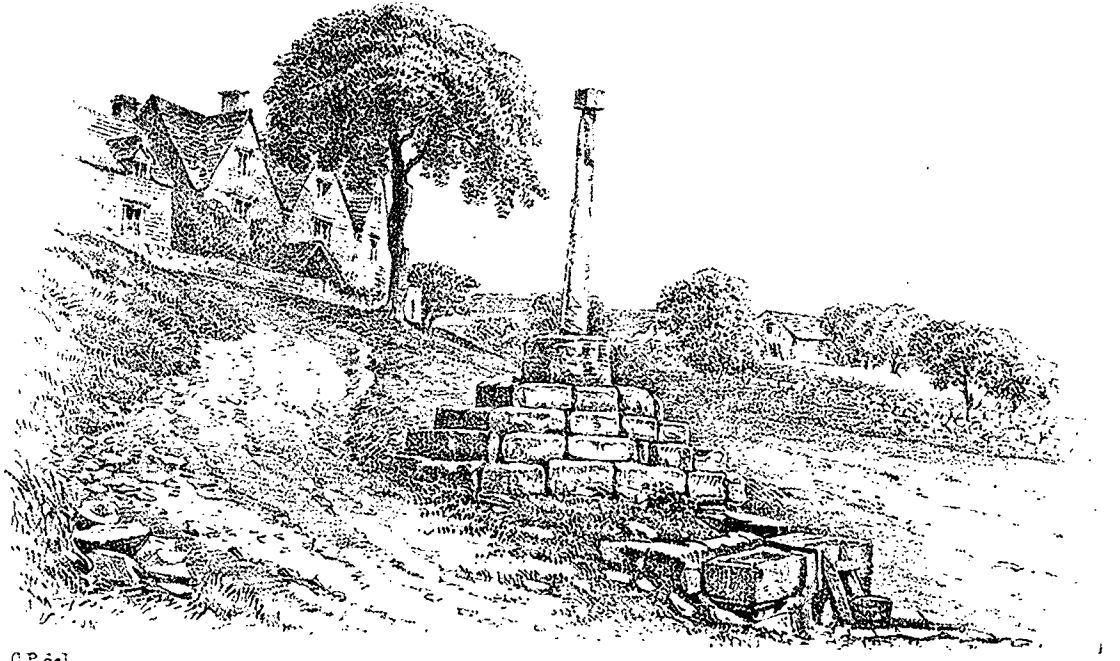
STOW-ON-THE-WOLD.—The ancient Cross in the Market-place is supposed to have been erected by the Chesters, a wealthy and important family in Stow, the founders of a chantry, and no doubt the builders of the noble tower of the church. The three steps measure respectively

7 ft., 4 ft. 6½ in., and 3 ft. 3 in. square. The socket is octagonal in its upper bed, with broaches at the angles; the shaft is an octagonal monolith, 7 ft. in height, and squared at its base by broaches. Instead of any attempt being made to restore this fine monument of the fifteenth century, the

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD.

utilitarian sense of the inhabitants have voted it a good pillar for a street lamp, and have placed one on the top accordingly, the structure having a groove chiselled in it to admit the pipe.

CALMSDEN.—A picturesque wayside Cross, erected over a spring of remarkable purity, which bubbles forth at its foot. It stands on an eminence on the north side of the



C.P. del.

M & N Hanhart lith.

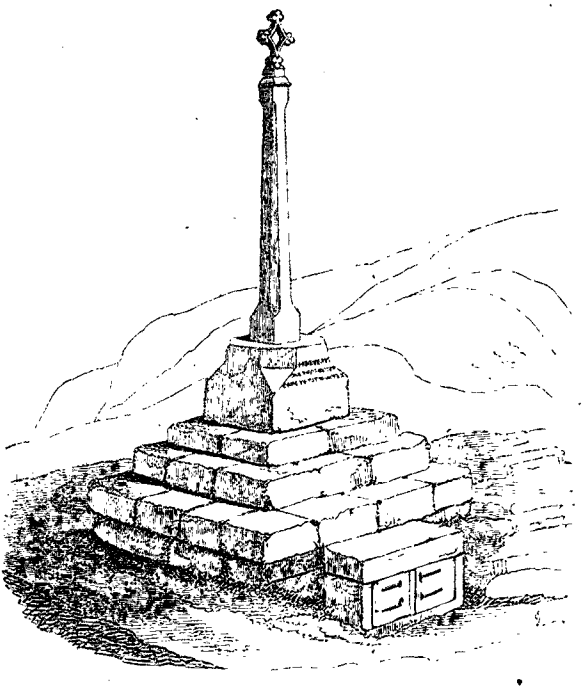
CALMSDEN CROSS

glen, and the visitor cannot fail to be struck with its beauty in this sequestered nook, shaded as it is by the luxuriant foliage of some fine old elms. The Cross is probably as old as the time of the Knights Templars. There is no direct historical evidence that I know of to support this opinion; but old Chronicles tell us, that the Preceptors of the Knights Hospitallers of Jerusalem at Quennington, only a few miles distant, held large possessions at Calmsden, being the several gifts of Mabel, the wife of William de Lega, and of Richard, the son of Robert de Calmsden, and it is not unlikely that the Cross was erected there, in accordance with ancient usage, to mark by whom the lands were held. The structure is composed of four steps and a pedestal or socket, into which is inserted a taper hexagonal monolith, surmounted by a cube, whose sides face the four cardinal points. Evidently the work of the early part of the fourteenth century.

WESTON-SUB-EDGE.—An old Cross stands, I am told, where the four roads meet.

CONDICOTE.—A restored Cross. The base of an old Cross, consisting of three steps and the socket, apparently of late fourteenth century work, was already erected over a well or rather cistern, at no depth from the general surface of the ground, which is supplied by a spring of pure water flowing into it. In the year 1864 the present Incumbent, the Rev. W. B. Van Notten Pole, with the laudable desire to preserve this ancient relic and render it more useful, had a shaft

6 ft. 6 in. in height, with an ornamental Cross on the top,



CONDICOTE CROSS (RESTORED).

as a finial, fixed into the socket, and the following inscriptions cut on three of its sides:—

EAST FACE.

'HO, EVERY ONE THAT THIRSTETH
COME YE TO THE WATERS.'
ISAIAH LV. I.

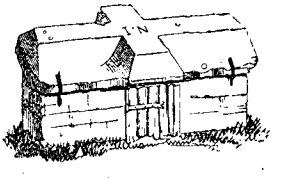
WEST FACE.

RESTORED. 1862.
W. B. VAN NOTTEN POLE. RECTOR.

NORTH FACE.

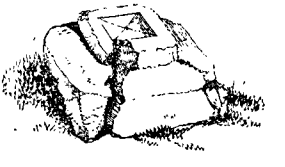
THIS WELL IS RESERVED FOR THE
DOMESTIC PURPOSES OF THE INHABITANTS OF THIS PARISH,
FOR ALL OTHER USES RECOURSE TO THE
PUMP AND TROUGH IS RESPECTFULLY SUGGESTED.
SEE RESOLUTION OF VESTRY,
MARCH 16, 1865.

ROBIN'S WOOD HILL.—A little above the reservoirs at the foot of the hill, a spring rises, which, our county historians say, has supplied the city of Gloucester with water for more than 400 years. In the reign of Edward III. it became the subject of a dispute between the Grey Friars and S. Peter's Abbey, concerning the quantity of water the former was to receive, which was settled by the King in 1350. Over this spring is placed a stone of massive proportions, cut in the form of a Cross, whose sides are inclined planes. It measures 6 ft. 8 in. in length, by 1 ft. 4½ in. in width, and the transom 2 ft. 11 in. in length, and is supported by five others—namely, one at each end, a long stone forming one side, and two in the front, to which it is fastened by iron clamps. Between these two stones a small wooden door is fixed. The whole forms a substantial and complete protection to the spring. The upper stone is much worn by exposure to the weather, but there can be no doubt of its great antiquity. Possibly late thirteenth century. It is the only horizontal solid Cross I have met with in Gloucestershire.



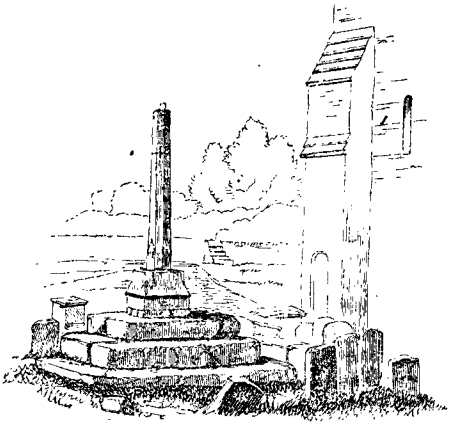
ROBIN'S WOOD HILL.

ALDSWORTH ROAD.—On the branch road leading to Kilkenny is the socket or base of a roadside Cross, but it is so much injured and weather-worn that it scarcely retains its original form, although it still goes by the name of the Cross.



ALDSWORTH ROAD.

NORTH CERNEY.—A churchyard Cross, standing nearly opposite the south porch of the church. It has three steps: the socket is concave in its upper bed and square below; the angles truncated; the shaft is a tapering octagon, formed of two stones, united by an iron clamp. On the apex is a tenon for mortising into the capital. In searching for the head of this Cross, I lighted on a sculptured stone built into an adjacent wall, which I suspect belonged to it.



NORTH CERNEY.

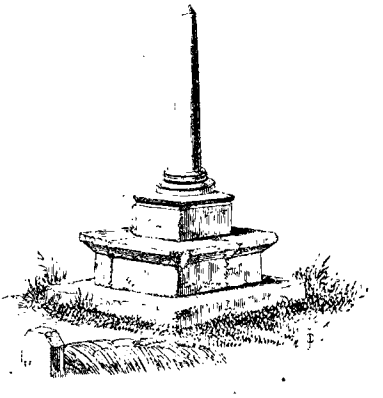
HAMPNETT.—The socket of a Cross of simple type, but very much worn, still remains on the village green. There is also a socket and three feet of the octagonal shaft

HAMPNETT.

of a Cross in the churchyard on the south side of the church. The socket measures 2 ft. 7 in. square by 2 ft. in

height; and has a deep chamfer at the angles, and a hollow tooling round its upper part. The shaft is mortised into the socket with lead. Fifteenth century.

EDGWORTH.—A churchyard Cross, which stands on the south side of the church, consisting of a step, which is considerably sunk in the ground, and measures 4 ft. 10 in. square, on which is raised a massive bench of masonry, 3 ft. 4 in. square by 15 in. in height, having a deep overhanging splayed drip. On this stage is fixed the plinth, 2 ft. 2½ in. square by 10 in. in height, finished on its upper face by circular toolings. Into the mortise is fixed a modern unmeaning obelisk, 5 ft. 3 in. in height. The lower features, which are old, probably belong to the latter part of the fifteenth century.



EDGWORTH.

BLACKSWORTH.—On a hill within a few yards of the turnpike-gate leading down to Crews was a small dwelling-house, in former ages a Catholic chapel, dedicated to S. Anthony, and retaining the name of the Saint. In the highway, above 200 yards west of the church, stood Don John's Cross, which was a circular column of freestone, raised on an octangular base. What remained of it is said to have been placed near an adjacent house when the church was built; but its memory is only preserved by a

sign at the door of an inn adjoining the spot. The legendary tale attached to this Cross is, that the corpse of Don John (perhaps Domini Johannis), a noble Spaniard, rested here on the way to its place of interment, probably in Spain, from the port of Bristol.

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